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Arab-Israeli Talks

MENA Reports 'Text' of Cairo Agreement

NC1002165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Feb 94

["Text" of Cairo Agreement initialed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on 9 February]]

[Text] Cairo, Feb 10 (MENA)—The final official English version of the agreement between the PLO and Israel on security issues which was signed late Wednesday [9 February] in Cairo and obtained from Israeli officials:

THE CAIRO AGREEMENT

Passages

The two sides agreed on the attached text to be included in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The Jericho Area

1. The size of the Jericho area will be as depicted on the agreed map attached to this agreement.

2. In addition, while not part of the Jericho area:

a. Pending the entry into force of the interim agreement, the holy site of al-Nabi Musa will be under the auspices of the Palestinian authority for religious purposes.

b. During religious events that take place three times a year and other special occasions that will be coordinated with the Israeli authorities, Palestinians will have the right to religious pilgrimage to the al-Maghtis under the Palestinian flag.

c. Palestinian private projects, as well as joint ventures in accordance with the Declaration of Principles [DOP], will be located as agreed on the shore of the Dead Sea.

d. Safe passage will be provided from the Jericho area to al-Nabi Musa, al-Maghtis and the projects and ventures as agreed in paragraph c. above on the shore of the Dead Sea for the above mentioned purposes. Details regarding the safe passage arrangements will be included in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

3. Roads within Jericho city will be under Palestinian control. Joint patrols on the main roads will be operated, led by the Palestinian vehicle. The issue of al-'Awja' and its roads will be negotiated in the immediate future in Taba.

4. Religious affairs in the "Shalom Al Israel" Synagogue in Jericho will be under the auspices of the Israeli authorities.

The Gaza Strip

1. In accordance with the DOP, during the interim period the Gush Katif and Erez settlement areas, as well as the other settlements in the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli military installation area along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip, as indicated on the attached map, will be under Israeli authority. In the areas delineated in yellow on the attached map and without derogating from Palestinian authority, responsibility will be shared as follows: The Israeli authorities will have the overriding responsibility and powers for security and the Palestinian authority will have the responsibility and powers for civil affairs, subject to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. In addition, with regard to those areas delineated in yellow, cooperation and coordination in security matters, including joint patrols, as agreed, will be implemented. Possible changes in the area designated yellow in the southern Security Zone will be dealt with in Taba.

2. Without derogating from Palestinian authority and in accordance with the DOP:

a. On the three lateral roads connecting the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip to Israel, namely: the Kissufim-Gush Katif road; the Sufa-Gush Katif road; and the Nahal 'Oz-Karni-Nezzarim road, including the adjacent sides upon which the security of traffic along these roads is dependent, the Israeli authorities will have all necessary responsibilities and powers in order to conduct independent security activity, including Israeli patrols.

b. Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols will operate along these roads and the adjacent sides. Such joint patrols will be led by the Israeli vehicle.

c. Where the Israeli authorities carry out engagement steps, they will do so with a view to transferring, at the earliest opportunity, the continued handling of the incidents falling within Palestinian responsibility to the Palestinian police.

d. Overpasses will be constructed on intersections between the lateral roads and the main north-south road.

e. These arrangements will be reviewed by the JSCCC [Joint Security Coordination and Cooperation Committee] after one year from the date of completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip.

3. Zoning questions will be dealt with in Taba.

Other Issues

The early empowerment agreement will be negotiated in Taba, after the completion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The interim agreement, including modalities for elections and redeployment of forces in the West Bank, will be negotiated in Washington, D.C.

ARTICLE

Passages

1. General:

a. While Israel remains responsible during the interim period for external security, including along the Egyptian border and the Jordanian line, border crossing shall take

place according to the arrangements included in this Article. These arrangements aim at creating a mechanism that facilitates the entry and exit of people and goods, reflecting the new reality created by the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, while providing full security for both sides.

b. the arrangements included in this Article shall apply to the following border crossing:
(1) the Allenby Bridge crossing, and
(2) the Rafah crossing

c. The same arrangements will be applied by the parties, with the necessary adjustments to agreed seaports, airports or other international crossings such as the Abdullah and Damya bridges.

d. The two sides are determined to do their utmost to maintain the dignity of persons passing through the border crossings. To this end the mechanism created will rely heavily on brief and modern procedures.

e. In each border crossing there will be one terminal, consisting of two wings. The first wing will serve Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and visitors to these areas (hereinafter "the Palestinian wing"). The second wing will serve the Israelis and others (hereinafter "the Israeli wing"). There will be a closed Israeli checking area and a closed Palestinian checking area, as set out below.

f. Special arrangements will apply to V.I.P.s crossing through the Palestinian wing. The liaison bureau to be established pursuant to paragraph 5 below (hereinafter "the Liaison Bureau") will define the scope and the nature of these special arrangements.

2. Control and Management of the Passages

a. For the purpose of this Article "passage" is defined to mean the area from the crossing barrier at the Egyptian border or the Allenby Bridge, passing through and including the terminal and:
(1) with regard to the Allenby Bridge crossing, from the terminal up to the Jericho area, and
(2) with regard to the Rafah crossing, from the terminal up to the outer limit of the Israel military location along the Egyptian border.

b. (1) Israel will have the responsibility for security throughout the passage, including for the terminal.
(2) An Israeli director-general will have the responsibility for the management and security of the terminal.
(3) The director-general will have two deputies who will report to him:
(a) an Israeli deputy who will be the manager of the Israeli wing. Israel will have exclusive responsibility for the management of the Israeli wing, and
(b) a Palestinian deputy, appointed by the Palestinian authority, who will be the manager of the Palestinian wing.
(4) Each deputy will have an assistant for security and an assistant for administration. The assignments of the Palestinian deputies for security and administration will be agreed up on by the two sides in Taba.
(5) There will be maximum coordination between the two sides. Both sides will maintain cooperation and coordination on matters of mutual concern.
(6) The director-general will continue to use Palestinian contractors to provide bus services and other administrative and logistical services.
(7) Palestinian policemen present at the terminal will be armed with handguns. Their deployment will be decided upon in Taba. Other Palestinian officials present at the terminal will be unarmed.
(8) The details of management and security and Liaison Bureau issues will be dealt with in Taba.
(9) The two sides will work together in Taba in order to seek ways for additional arrangements in the Rafah terminal.
(10) Both parties will review these procedures in a year's time.

c. Except for the arrangements included in this Article the current procedures and arrangements applicable outside the terminal shall continue to apply throughout the passage.

d. (1) Once incoming passengers have crossed the terminal they will proceed to the Jericho area or Gaza Strip, as appropriate, without any interference from Israeli authorities.
(2) Outgoing passengers may proceed to the terminal without any interference from Israeli authorities after joint verification that such passengers hold the necessary documentation for exiting the area to Jordan or Egypt, as set out in this Agreement.

3. Arrangements for Entry from Egypt and Jordan Through the Palestinian Wing

a. At the entrance to the Palestinian wing there will be a Palestinian policeman and a raised Palestinian flag.

b. Before entering the Palestinian wing, passengers will identify their personal luggage and it will be place on a conveyor belt. Each side will be able to inspect such luggage inside its own checking area using its own personnel and, if necessary, may open the luggage for inspection in the presence of the owner and a Palestinian policeman.

c. Persons entering the Palestinian wing will pass through a magnetic gate. An Israeli policeman and a Palestinian policeman will be posted on each side of this gate. In the event of suspicion, each side will be entitled to require a physical inspection to be conducted in inspection booths to be located adjacent to the gate. Passengers will be inspected by a Palestinian policeman in the presence of an Israeli policeman. Accompanying personal belongings may also be inspected at this point.

d. Having completed the above phase, person entering the Palestinian wing will pass through one of three lanes for the purpose of identification and document control, as follows:

(1) The first lane will be used by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, these passengers will pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Their documents will be checked by an Israeli officer who will also check their identity indirectly in an invisible manner.
(2) The second lane will serve other Palestinian residents of the West Bank. These passengers will first pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Then they will continue via an Israeli counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. The two counters will be separated by tinted glass and a revolving door.
(3) The third lane will serve visitors to the Gaza Strip and West Bank. An identical procedure as in paragraph 3.d.(2) above will apply to such visitors, except that they will first pass via the Israel counter and then continue via the Palestinian counter.

e. In the event of suspicion regarding a passenger in any of the three lanes described in paragraph d. above each side may question such passenger in its closed checking area. Suspicion justifying questioning in the closed checking area may be one of the following:
(1) the passenger was involved, directly or indirectly, in criminal or planned criminal activity, in terrorist or planned terrorist activity and is not a beneficiary of the amnesty provisions of this agreement.
(2) the passenger conceals arms, explosives, or related equipment.
(3) the passenger holds forged or non-valid documentation or the details included in the documentation are inconsistent with those included in the population registry (in case of residence) or in the data base (in case of of a visitor), except that questions relating to such inconsistency will initially be raised at the counter and the passenger will be questioned in the closed checking area only if the suspicion has not been removed, or
(4) the passenger acts in an obviously suspicious behavior during the passage via the terminal.

If, at the conclusion of this questioning, the suspicion has not been removed, such passenger may be apprehended, after the other side has been notified. In case of a Palestinian suspect being apprehended by the Israeli side, a Palestinian policeman will be asked to meet with the suspect. Following notification to the liaison bureau, any further treatment of the apprehended person will be in accordance with Annex III (Protocol Concerning Legal Arrangements in Criminal Matters).

f. In the Palestinian wing, each side will have the authority to deny the entry of persons who are not residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

For the purpose of this Agreement, "residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank" shall mean persons who, on the date of entry into force of this Agreement, are registered as residents of these areas in the population registry maintained by the military government of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as well as persons who have subsequently obtained permanent residency in these areas with the approval of Israel, as set out in this Agreement.

g. Following the above procedure, the passengers will collect their luggage and proceed to the customs area. (The procedures will be agreed upon in Paris).

h. The Palestinian side will provide passengers whose entry is approved with an entry permit stamped by the Palestinian side and attached to their documents.

At the conclusion of the direct and indirect checking of passengers passing via the first lane and stamping their entry permits, the Palestinian officer will provide the passenger with a white card issued by the Israeli officer. A Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian wing will verify that the passenger holds such a white card and will collect the cards with indirectly an invisible Israeli checking.

For passengers going through the second and third lanes, the Israeli officer will provide the passengers with a blue card, after checking their documents and identity, and verifying their entry permits. An Israeli and a Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian wing will verify and collect the cards. White and blue cards collected will be checked by Israeli and Palestinian officials.

In cases where either side denies the entry of a non-resident passenger, that passenger will be escorted out of the terminal and sent back to Jordan or Egypt, as appropriate, after notifying the other side.

4. Arrangements for Exit to Egypt and Jordan Through the Palestinian Wing

Passengers exiting to Egypt or Jordan through the Palestinian wing will enter the terminal without their luggage. Thereafter, the same procedures described in paragraph 3 above will apply to them, except that the order of passing via the Israeli and Palestinian counters will be reversed.

For passengers going through the second and third lanes, the Israeli officer will provide the passengers with a blue card, after checking their documents and identity, and verifying their entry permits. An Israeli and a Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian wing will verify and collect the cards. White and blue cards collected will be checked by Israeli and Palestinian officials.

In cases where either side denies the entry of a non-resident passenger, that passenger will be escorted out of the terminal and sent back to Jordan or Egypt, as appropriate, after notifying the other side.

5. Liaison Bureau

a. There will be a liaison bureau at each crossing point in order to deal with matters arising regarding passengers passing through the Palestinian Wing, issues requiring

coordination, and differences regarding the implementation of these arrangements. Without derogating from Israel's responsibility for security, the bureau will also deal with incidents.

b. This bureau will be comprised of an equal number of representatives from each side and will be located at a specified location inside each terminal.

c. This bureau will be subordinate to the CAC [Civil Affairs Committee] and to the relevant RCCO [Regional Coordination and Cooperation Office].

6. Miscellaneous

a. Special arrangements will be agreed upon by the two sides regarding the passage of goods, buses, trucks and privately owned vehicles. Pending this agreement, the current arrangements will continue to apply.

b. Israel will attempt to complete the structural alterations on the Rafah and Allenby Bridge terminals not later than the date of the completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

If these structural alterations are not completed by that time, the arrangements described in this Article shall apply, except for those arrangements that cannot be implemented without the structural alterations.

c. In order to cross through the crossing points in and out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, residents of these areas will use documents as detailed in (the Annex developed by the Civilian Committee). Pending the entry into force of the interim agreement, other West Bank residents will continue to use the existing documents issued by the military government and its Civil Administration.

d. Visitors to the Gaza Strip and Jericho area will be permitted to remain in these areas for a period of up to three months granted by the Palestinian authority and approved by Israel. The Palestinian authority may extend this three-month period for an additional period of up to three months and will inform Israel about the extension. Any further extensions require the approval of Israel. The Palestinian request for a four-month period and an additional four months will be negotiated in Taba in the immediate future.

e. The Palestinian authority will ensure that visitors referred to in paragraph d. above will not overstay the duration of their entry permit and authorize extensions.

Further on Agreement Issues

TA1002000194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night signed an agreement in Cairo concluding the arrangements at the border crossings and the security arrangements in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The size of the Jericho area will be decided upon in a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Israel and the Palestinians also agreed on several security issues, on the powers of the Palestinian authority under autonomy, and on a number of other disputed issues. The agreement and the accompanying maps were signed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and PLO representative Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. The foreign minister and the PLO chairman added their signatures.

Our correspondent in Cairo Moti Amir reports that the signed agreement will be valid for one year after which a committee established by both parties will be able to reexamine it. As for the Gaza Strip, the parties last night agreed that it would have three settlement areas which would also contain the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases responsible for the Jewish settlers' security. Major General 'Uzi Dayan clarified that Israel would retain exclusive responsibility for the east-west roads which the settlers would use to drive from the Gaza Strip into Israel. The areas on the side of the road would be under Israeli responsibility in coordination with the Palestinians. Israeli security forces would have the right to act against any elements who either seek to harm or actually attack Israelis moving on the agreed upon roads. At a certain stage, the Palestinians will assume responsibility for the pursuit of the perpetrators.

Israel will retain full control of the border area in the Gaza Strip, as well as full responsibility for the security arrangements at the Rafah border crossing. On the Allenby Bridge, Israel will have the inviolable right to check any person crossing the bridge from Jordan and will be authorized to prevent the entry of any undesirable individual. Those barred entry will not be permitted to appeal the decision. An Israeli security guard will be stationed on the bridge. There will be two inspection rooms at the border terminal, one room for Israel and the other for the Palestinians. The agreement also stipulates arrangements for the Jericho area but the size of this area will be decided upon during the meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak welcomed the agreement. He telephoned Prime Minister Rabin and invited him to visit Egypt. Mr. Rabin thanked the Egyptians for their contribution to the peace process and said he would gladly visit Egypt after the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians had begun. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reported that the prime minister approved all the details of the agreement. The chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, the head of the Intelligence Branch, and the director of the Shin Bet arrived at the prime minister's bureau, examined every detail of the agreement, and conveyed their approval to Cairo. Our political correspondent reports that the military, civilian, and economic talks will resume next week in Taba and Paris. The two parties will also discuss the issue of the Gaza Strip roads in detail at the Taba talks.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF will be capable of withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area within one month if

it is required to do so. Army sources nevertheless asserted that an additional 300 million shekels, on top of the already authorized sum of 250 million shekels, would be required to finance the redeployment.

Rabin, 'Arafat To Discuss Jericho Size

NC1002144494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has affirmed that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has delivered an official message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat notifying him that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will discuss the final size of the Jericho area with him personally when they meet in the near future. Sha'th pointed out that the final size of the Jericho area will remain frozen until 'Arafat and Rabin meet. He noted that the Palestinian side signed the map relating to the Jericho area but expressed reservations about it.

It is worth noting that Palestinian President 'Arafat balked for a few moments when he was asked to sign one of the maps pertinent to Jericho. He did not want to sign it but then signed it with reservation.

Official Palestinian sources in the negotiating delegation said that the Palestinian party's basic objection to the crossings document, which delayed the official signing for more than three hours, focused on the paragraph relating to the administration of the crossing points. These sources said that they tried to get the best conditions under the general Declaration of Principles agreement, which gives Israel the right to be in charge of external security but emphasizes national Palestinian sovereignty.

Palestinian sources pointed out that the administration of the crossing points gives Israel the right to have a general director with a Palestinian and an Israeli deputy director. They stressed that the Palestinian party managed to obtain a confirmation of total Palestinian authority over the crossing points, side roads [turuq 'aradiyah], and the settlements [wa akkadat anna al-janib al-filastini istata'a al-husul 'ala ta'kid bi al-sultah al-filastiniyah bil kamil sawa' bi al-nisbah lil ma'abir aw al-turuq al-'aradiyah aw al-mustawtanat]. Noting that the emphasis on Palestinian authority was important, they said that the Palestinian side gave Israel the right to be in charge of external security, including recognition of what the Declaration of Principles agreement outlined on external security. These sources said that according to the agreement, the Palestinian party has the right to coordinate security on the crossing points, side roads, and the settlements. They said that the Palestinian party also obtained the zones outlined in the document under the title "yellow areas," which are the Palestinian areas excluded from the Israeli settlements. Israel has a certain authority over these areas but the Palestinian party has full authority over them.

Peres, 'Arafat Agree on Resumption of Talks

TA1102191694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The negotiations to finalize the security and civilian issues of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will resume on Monday, 14 February. At the same time, the talks between Israel and the PLO on economic issues will resume in Paris. This was decided today in a phone conversation between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two men also decided to meet again in Cairo if the need arises to break through a stalemate in the talks.

Mr. Peres conferred today tete-a-tete with the prime minister. They were later joined by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Speaking to our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, Mr. Peres said: We overcame mountains of tension and suspicion, and the negotiations with the Palestinians may now be held at a faster pace. [passage omitted]

Talks To Cover Police, Amnesty Plan

NC1302185894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 13 Feb (MENA)—Sources in the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations have stated that, at its meeting tomorrow, the Security Affairs Committee will discuss the details of the formation of the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho.

The sources noted that the Palestinian side demands that this force be made up of 9,000 troops, while the Israeli side demands that it consist of 6,000 troops, including the civil defense force as well as the intelligence and public security services.

The sources added that the Civilian Affairs Committee, which is led by Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi on the Palestinian side, and by Gadi Zohar, head of the West Bank's Civil Administration, on the Israeli side, will resume its discussions concerning the transfer of powers to the Palestinians in the fields of water, civil planning, antiquities, electricity, communications, and land registration.

The Palestinian sources said that the Confidence-Building Committee, which stemmed from the Taba negotiations, will discuss the amnesty plan, which will include the release of all the Palestinian detainees in Israel at a date not later than July. The sources said that the number of Palestinian detainees is 9,000, following the Israeli authorities' recent freeing of some 2,000 Palestinian detainees.

The current round of the Taba negotiations is expected to last until Thursday [17 February] night.

PLO's Sha'th Comments on Cairo Agreement

TA1002190794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief Palestinian negotiator in the peace talks with Israel, by Me'ir Kohen in Cairo "this evening"—recorded]

[Text] [Sha'th] In fact, this agreement is not an agreement in the true sense of the word, but a declaration resolving three major problems that obstructed these talks aimed at implementing the Declaration of Principles and the beginning of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Those three problems relating to the crossings, the size of the Jericho area, and the security measures in the areas of the settlements and in the roads leading from the settlements to Israel constitute an obstacle. We announced yesterday that we had solved this problem and overcame this obstacle. Consequently, the road will be open to reaching an agreement. This is not a separate agreement from the Gaza-Jericho accord, nor is it a partial agreement, rather it *is* a declaration overcoming the major obstacles.

[Kohen] Will this declaration provide answers to Israeli security concerns and at the same time achieve Palestinian wishes and aspirations?

[Sha'th] I believe that it responds to a great many of these aspirations, but it does not necessarily give each party what it wants. This is the nature of such talks, especially as far as these kinds of phased talks are concerned, which seek to reach partial agreement on a transitional government, not on full sovereignty and an independent state. There is no model that one can follow. Therefore, we have to work out some kind of arrangement that realizes the Palestinian people's aspirations for dignity, independence, and freedom and upholds the Israelis' demand for security, which has always constituted an Israeli concern.

[Kohen] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, at the end of every set of negotiations each side calculates the losses and gains of an agreement. What is the Palestinian gain from the agreement signed in Cairo last night?

[Sha'th] That we implement the accord that we signed in Washington relatively quickly because we have lagged behind. Now we should end this delay so as to implement this accord. The beginning of an implementation of the accord will open new vistas to our people in the occupied Palestinian territories that will gradually remove from them the burden of Israeli occupation and achieve for them part—part—of their aspirations in governing themselves and repatriating part of the Palestinian people to Palestine, especially those displaced in 1967. Consequently, the gain here is to start moving matters toward the realization of the Palestinian people's goals.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Ministers Urge UN To Lift Sarajevo Siege

LD1002213194 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 10, IRNA—Foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] in Jakarta, Indonesia Thursday [10 February] appealed to the U.N. Security Council to forge effective measures to lift the siege of Sarajevo. Issuing a statement, foreign ministers of the OIC contact group including those of Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Egypt are currently in Jakarta to hold their annual meeting. The foreign ministers branded as "insufficient" the recent decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The statement also called for a special session of the U.N. Security Council to find a just solution to the Bosnian problem.

The OIC also declared its support for holding of an international conference to find a just solution to Bosnia-Herzegovina problem.

Some 16 NATO member states in Brussels Wednesday threatened Bosnian Serbs with air strikes unless the Serbs withdrew artillery and heavy weapons beyond 20-kilometer range of the Sarajevo within ten days. The Serbian forces have agreed to withdraw their artilleries beyond the range of Sarajevo.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Trip Sparks 'Severe Disagreement' in PLO

PM1002141694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulayb: "'Arafat's Trip To Meet With Peres in Cairo Sparks Off Severe Disagreement in Palestinian Leadership"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sparked off a severe disagreement inside the Palestinian leadership and among second-cadre Palestinians because of his trip to Cairo to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Arafat went to Cairo despite the Palestinian leadership's decision to send a delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and including Ahmad Qurayʻ (Abu-'Ala'), to be joined there by Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, and Faysal al-Husayni from the occupied territories, as Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) refused to head the delegation, insisting on his previous position, namely not to return to the negotiating table until progress has been made and results produced in "'Arafat's negotiations." [passage omitted]

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources, this solution appealed to a number of PLO Executive Committee members, as it saves 'Arafat's "face." 'Arafat was exposed to strong criticisms during the Palestinian leadership's recent meetings in Tunis because of the situation to which he has led the negotiations. Well-informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the negotiations file is now full of ambiguity and the issues have become confused as a result of 'Arafat's interference, since he led the negotiations to the Davos agreement, which ignores all previous agreements.

The sources criticize 'Arafat's practices and his noncompliance with what was agreed by Palestinian negotiators in the past. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that huge and serious loopholes have emerged in Palestinian negotiation performance. Numerous forces warned about the danger of this even before the negotiations. And many people expressed this inside the Central Council, which endorsed the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Al-Najjab adds: "The most marked loophole is the nonexistence of a body to refer to or an integrated negotiation plan." Al-Najjab stressed that after the present negotiations in Cairo the causes of these loopholes will be examined and ways of tackling them explored.

He said that the only way out of the present situation in the negotiations is to return to what the Central Council decided, namely: the need to set up an authority for the negotiations, draw up a plan for them, and select professional and political capabilities to continue this process. And also to adhere to the negotiation mechanism specified by the declaration of principles agreement to secure the required agreements, whether with regard to Gaza and Jericho, the transitional phase, the final agreement, and so on.

Al-Najjab said that the Israelis feel that the time factor is in their favor, which is why they are resorting to procrastination to gain more time and continuing their previous policy before the Declaration of Principles agreement is implemented.

Another Palestinian official, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Israelis want now to consolidate the new negotiation mechanism between 'Arafat and Peres, because this mechanism gives more room to maneuver and play for time. The official did not conceal that as a result of the mechanism consolidated by 'Arafat, Israel is now in a better and more comfortable position, so they are now in a position to step up their conditions. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Faces 'Major Problem' Ratifying Agreement

PM1402110494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah: " 'Arafat Faces Problem of Ratifying Agreement Inside Executive Committee"]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is facing a major problem vis-a-vis the ratification of the agreement he signed on 9 February with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on security arrangements for the Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Apart from the popular opposition to the agreement inside the occupied territories, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there is opposition within the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, as 'Arafat's attempt to convene a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee to brief it and seek its approval of the agreement has failed. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that three Executive Committee members—namely, Sulayman al-Najjab (representative of the Palestinian People's Party), Yasir 'Amr (independent), and Samir Ghawshah (representative of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front)—refused to accept the invitation sent to them by 'Arafat to attend the committee's meeting to ratify the agreement—which means there is no longer a sufficient quorum to endorse any decision in the highest executive authority inside the PLO. [passage omitted]

The refusal of al-Najjab, 'Amr, and Ghawshah to agree on the security arrangements means that 'Arafat will not be able to pass the agreement constitutionally at the Palestinian level, as the number of those who approve of it will not reach 12, the number required to complete the quorum. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Comments on Signing of 'Final Deal'

NC1202175594 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Tunis, Feb 12 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said Saturday [12 February] he expects to sign a final deal with Israel by the end of the month to launch Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian agency WAFA reported.

The PLO would continue its efforts to achieve a "precise and faithful implementation" of the September 13 autonomy deal, he said.

'Arafat spoke after briefing Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the PLO-Israel security pact signed in Cairo on Wednesday, which overcame some of the obstacles to launching self-rule.

Israel's withdrawal is due to be completed by April 13.

The two sides will resume talks in Egypt on Monday to finalize agreement on autonomy.

PLO Officials To Begin Arriving in Gaza 22 Feb

NC1002123194 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Feb 10 (AFP)—PLO officials will start arriving in the occupied Gaza Strip from February 22 to implement the Palestinian autonomy agreement on the ground, a leading Palestinian figure said Thursday [10 February].

"On February 22 or 23, PLO officials will come to the Gaza Strip to begin to apply the Cairo agreement," Furayh Abu-Middayn, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, told AFP.

"They will perhaps be accompanied by units of the Palestine Liberation Army," added lawyer Abu-Middayn, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association and a close associate of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The soldiers are to join the Palestinian police force which is to ensure order during autonomy.

The statement came after Israel and the PLO settled their differences on security aspects of the September 13 Declaration of Principles for Palestinian autonomy.

The security deal opens the way for autonomy to be implemented, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has warned it will take at least another month to sort out other issues, such as the economic side of self-rule.

PLO Leaders, Opposition Analyze Cairo Agreement

'Abbas: Accord 'Important' Step

PM1102144294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Telephone interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of Fatah's Central Committee, by Khayrallah Khayrallah; place and date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What is the significance of the agreement reached in Cairo?

['Abbas] What took place in Cairo was an important initial step toward the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. It also solved the most important problems which had been left to the negotiators to find solutions for. I believe that the Cairo agreement has opened and paved the way for the practical implementation (of the Declaration of Principles agreement), for [Palestinian] entry into Gaza and Jericho, and for the immediate and direct assumption of authority in these two regions, plus the immediate and direct assumption of responsibility for five authorities in the rest of the West Bank cities. (The five authorities are: education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism.)

[Khayrallah] How do you interpret the text of the new agreement?

['Abbas] Everyone knows the issues negotiated. They are: The security issues, the area of the settlements in Gaza, the crossings, and the size of the Jericho area. The agreement covered most of these points although some minor points were left to be resolved later. There are very many details we need to immediately begin to confirm on paper but they are not crucial or serious issues requiring the kind of negotiations held in Cairo or before. We can say that the Cairo agreement covered 80 percent of the fundamental issues and only 10 percent of the paper issues which will be discussed by the Taba and Paris committees.

[Khayrallah] Could the new agreement be regarded as a completion of what took place in Cairo, Granada, and Davos earlier?

['Abbas] What has now taken place in Cairo is a continuation of what we started in the second Oslo meeting, Davos, Cairo, and Granada. The same issues were discussed within the same framework and in the same spirit.

The reason we achieved what we did in Cairo was that there was closer common understanding of the agreement. That facilitated the result achieved.

[Khayrallah] What will be the formal position at the crossings?

['Abbas] There will be a special situation at the crossings for the people of the Gaza and Jericho areas in that the Israeli control will be invisible. What the agreement tries to guarantee is preservation of Palestinian dignity at entry and exit points, speedy procedures, and elimination of many formalities and obstacles people used to face at the crossing points where they had to wait hours or even days sometimes.

[Khayrallah] Why was Shim'on Peres reluctant to answer a question about the area of Jericho?

['Abbas] A confirmed area of Jericho has not yet been finally agreed upon. Efforts are being made to increase that area and fulfill the Palestinian and Israeli concepts of that area in a way that would ensure distancing it from the settlements. I believe that the issue of the area of Jericho will not be a problem in the future.

[Khayrallah] Are you optimistic about this being a step toward the implementation of the Declaration of Principles?

['Abbas] I believe that what took place in Cairo was an important step toward the implementation of the agreement. I am very hopeful that the implementation will begin and end before 13 April so that we would be able

to fulfill the sequence of the other dates which were stipulated in the agreement and which should be honored.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Accord 'Key' to Implementation

JN1302070794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Kassab Samawi in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Samawi] Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. For about five months, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have been attracting regional and world attention. After the famous Oslo agreement, which many described as a surprise, and after the historic signing ceremony in Washington, difficult negotiations were held in regional and world capitals, then in Davos and back to Cairo, where three-day around-the-clock negotiations were held, ending with the signing of the Cairo agreement on 9 February. These events were accompanied by many developments and questions, which need some clarification. Our guest on this show is Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member. Welcome Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

[Samawi] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, what is the Cairo agreement? How important is it toward the implementation of the self-rule agreement and the establishment of the national Palestinian authority in the autonomy regions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, the Cairo agreement has been an extremely important step. This is because it is the key to the implementation of the interim agreement on the establishment of the national Palestinian authority. In this agreement, we addressed and resolved a number of major issues, without which we cannot proceed to resolve other issues and, consequently, begin implementation of the interim agreement. Of course, at the forefront of these issues is the question of withdrawal arrangements from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region. Evidently, agreement has been reached on all withdrawal arrangements from these two areas. What remains to be done is to define the final size of the Jericho area. This issue will be addressed during the meeting between President 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin. The second point is the question of crossings and entry. On this point, many criticisms and various observations can be made. In fact, there is no perfect solution. No solution can be termed an ideal solution. Certainly, there has been a settlement and halfway solutions to a number of issues pertaining to the crossings and some withdrawal arrangements. For our part, we want to indicate that through any possible steps or arrangements, the objective of the Palestinian negotiator is to address two basic points. First, to start the removal of the occupation from parts of the Palestinian territory and to ensure the continuation of these steps toward the achievement of the final objective, which is the removal of the occupation from the entire Palestinian territory. The second objective is to put an end to all forms of coercion and suffering that our people have been enduring throughout the years of the occupation. With respect to the crossings, I believe what has been reached concerning this issue has been made public, but I want emphasize some important points. First, there is a Palestinian participation in the administration and security of the crossings. This is something that did not exist in the past. There is also a special Palestinian wing for the citizens of Gaza and Jericho as a first phase and as a first step, given that Gaza and Jericho will witness an end to the occupation. There are also some detailed arrangements concerning the verification of identification cards and interrogation, which will involve Palestinian participation. This is because the unilateral occupation control in the past has caused a great deal of pain and suffering for our people throughout the years of the occupation.

Additionally, there are arrangements concerning, for example, the arrival of Palestinian and other visitors from abroad. The duration of the visit may be for three months, for example, and then extended for a minimum of three extra months. This is still an unresolved issue. We demand a minimum of eight months, after which it can be extended with the approval of the two parties.

There are Israeli security demands that were raised. We dealt with these demands in a balanced way without allowing any exaggeration of Israeli security demands to encroach on the substance of the Oslo agreement, that is ending occupation. We linked the ending of occupation with the steps that will lead to alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people, as I have said.

[Samawi] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, when the famous Oslo agreement was announced, it was first received with surprise, the surprise then turned into acceptance and then wonderful manifestations. People in the occupied territories prepared to receive President 'Arafat. After that, you entered into very difficult negotiations with the Israelis. This state of imbalance has in fact created confusion and despair among the Palestinian people. You then reached the Cairo Agreement two days ago. What can one tell the kinsfolk in the occupied territories? Are the difficulties and problems now over? Can they expect to see soon the national Palestinian authority on the Palestinian soil, or see an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, from Gaza and Jericho?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I wish to say one important thing here. Withdrawal will take place and the dawn of the Palestinian independence will soon arrive. This process has started and will not end without completing all of its chapters; that is, the arrival of the dawn of freedom and the Palestinian people's wresting of their sacred national rights over their territory. But the start of this process is extremely difficult and complicated. There are so many years of occupation and there is an interconnection in relations—economic, administrative, and other relations

between us and the occupation apparatus and occupation as a whole. Therefore, severing these links requires first very difficult and tiring negotiations, and, second, a detailed, specific treatment of each issue. The most dangerous thing in this process is to lose patience. Losing patience will lead to solutions which we, the Palestinian people, will have to suffer for many years to come. What is important is to continue, persistently.

There are some issues which some people think are marginal issues. What happened in Cairo, negotiations over details and secondary issues, such as entry and exit gates? Yes, they may seem secondary, but when you take into account the suffering of the Palestinian citizen throughout the years of occupation, these are principal issues. And, as far as the Palestinian future is concerned, they are also principal issues.

The Israeli side says that dates are not sacred. In fact, this is not true. The dates are part of an integrated mechanism. The proof that dates must be respected, must be sacred, is that in the Cairo agreement, we considered that these arrangements realized were for one year and are liable to amendment and change in the future.

Therefore, we are aware that there is a feeling of frustration, a feeling that since the date fixed for December was not respected, then perhaps the entire agreement is unimplementable. We say that this question is not linked only with the Palestinian negotiator. This is the responsibility of the entire Palestinian people, their forces, groups, figures, and establishments. The battle of the Palestinian negotiator is the battle of the entire Palestinian people, the battle of all the Palestinian people's brothers and allies. There are many complicated problems between us and the occupation.

For instance, in Cairo we solved a number of difficult problems but certain issues have remained which will need a solution and treatment during the next two or three weeks. For instance, the issue of the economic relations. We certainly aim not to make the Palestinian entity economically subservient to occupation. We do not want to have an economic occupation that is camouflaged in one form of another. We want the Palestinian entity's relations open and closely connected with its Arab surroundings, especially with the Jordanian and Egyptian brothers for well-known pan-Arab and geographic reasons.

There is going to be a sharp struggle over the issue of economic relations. Negotiations will also be held on a number of administrative issues. For instance the identity cards to be issued by the Palestinian authority, how they will be approved and how they will be treated. We wish to have something similar to a Palestinian passport so that the Palestinian citizen will be able to get rid of many years of suffering. For instance, in the Gaza Strip, there is no Palestinian passport or identity card recognizable in the world. There are restrictions.

All these issues will be subject to negotiations. We believe that it is possible to reach agreement on these issues within a short time now that the more difficult questions have been dealt with in Cairo. Other problems remain such as defining the size of withdrawal from the Jericho area. Of course, we consider this issue to be very important because the entire process we are undertaking aims to ensure taking at least first steps during the first stage of the interim solution to end the occupation.

I'd like to make the point here that there is no such thing as a prefect solution. We would gladly help the opposers of the recent Cairo agreement determine its negative points. We will tell them how much bargaining it took to get that agreement.

[Samawi] Some observers contend that the Palestinian negotiators talking to the Israelis were facing tough choices, and therefore had to accept certain Israeli conditions with respect to the crossings, withdrawal, security for the Jewish settlements, and other important themes. Is that a fair assessment?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I'd like to point something out here. Let's draw a comparison between the Cairo agreement and the parent Oslo accord. There were certain constraints in the Oslo accord, and these may have been relaxed rather than toughened by the recent Cairo agreement. I do not want to talk about details that will serve no useful purpose for us the Palestinian negotiators. However, the themes on which agreement was reached in Cairo—like the question of an Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip, the area of the settlements and their locality—had been the subject of haggling for two months. These were the sticking points that held up the signing on 13 December. Regarding the settlements in Gaza, the Israelis insisted on a security presence for themselves in the adjoining territories. But we insisted that, in other respects, these territories be under Palestinian control and readily accessible to Palestinians. We also insisted that there be joint, rather than exclusively Israeli, patrols on the roads leading to the settlements—short as they are, and, in our opinion, artificial, and, therefore, disposable, as they are. It takes patience and stamina to address such issues. We also insisted that the main road that passes through the Gaza Strip from end to end be under Palestinian control. The Israelis can build bridges to span that road but not roads. As I have said every single detail of these issues took tough bargaining to sort out. This is because we had set out to achieve the twin objective of ending occupation and easing our people's suffering. Neither the Palestinian negotiator nor the process in general stand to gain anything from frustrations. What we really need is patience and resolve, even if the negotiating process has to drag on for longer.

Quick solutions will not be sufficient and will be dangerous to our future. Solutions achieved through determination, patience, and perseverance provide us with better guarantees even if they take longer, better guarantees for our future, and for the future of this entire political process.

[Samawi] Watching the signing ceremony in Cairo, we noticed that President 'Arafat was less cheerful than he had been during the Washington ceremony to sign the Oslo agreement. You were close to 'Arafat for three days and during the signing ceremony. Was he satisfied with the agreement?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that brother Yasir 'Arafat gave his views frankly during the news conference because he believes that this agreement is an important, big step toward finalizing the interim period agreement. We are happy whenever we proceed toward a solution. However, the suffering to reach this solution had been great. At the same time, we feel the immense responsibility of the Palestinian negotiator when he decides and agrees on any point. Perhaps it was the sense of this responsibility that appeared [on 'Arafat] and not that he did not want to sign as the news agency dispatches alleged. I do not believe these reports are worth responding to.

[Samawi] Last question, what is the next step after the Cairo agreement?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is the important thing, I imagine. As I said, the Cairo agreement allowed us to move one step forward to finalizing the interim phase agreement. There are so many issues that require extensive negotiations. The primary issue is the national authority and its role during the interim phase. I believe that in general, this issue is already solved as enunciated in the Oslo agreement. There are certain details related to it.

There is also the problem of the Palestinian police force entry, with its numbers and weapons, etc. There are a number of administrative problems such as documents, ID's and passports and how they will be dealt with. There is the issue of economic relations. All these issues require treatment and solutions over the next two weeks in order to complete the agreement. With this agreement, there is a primary issue for us; namely, releasing all the Palestinian detainees. There will be no agreement without releasing all the detainees and the detained Palestinian freedom fighters. If we want to turn a new leaf, none of these strugglers, who are the elite of our people, should be in jail.

We began negotiating on this subject in Taba. Of course, we negotiated on details and not on the principle itself because the issue of releasing the detainees is not negotiable. There was a fixed timetable extending to 13 April. If the agreement is completed on various issues and is applied before 13 April—and I believe this is possible because withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho and certain issues related to the transfer of authorities require only one month, between 13 March and 13 April—then the timetable on releasing all detainees will be implemented along with completing the withdrawal.

I repeat that this is an essential issue for us and we emphasized it in the Cairo meeting. We are aware that the Palestinian people, their brothers, allies, and friends, and all those who want the peace process to succeed will be happy to see tangible, real implementation of all these papers, agreements, and signatures. Failure to begin implementation will cause a loss of trust in the entire process.

That is we have the link between the steps of withdrawal and the measures concerning reducing and ending the suffering on the crossing points, and so forth, and the release of Palestinian detainees. All these issues are linked so that we can arrive at the starting point in the implementation of the transitional phase. Here, I wish to say that this is only a starting point in the transitional phase. It will be followed by negotiations covering issues such as ending the military occupation, ending the Israeli civilian administration, and the Palestinian authority's assumption of control over all Palestinian territory in the West bank and Gaza Strip. These issues are expected to be completed after several months, three or four months after completing the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Even as regards the Cairo agreement, it is clear that on the Gaza and Jericho wings there will be a principal Palestinian presence and an invisible Israeli presence. On the other wing, that of other Palestinians in the West Bank, there will be a joint presence. These are all transitional arrangements because when the full role of the Palestinian authority over all Palestinian territory is complete, and when withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho takes place, when the remainder of Israeli troops are deployed in certain areas in the other parts of the West Bank, and when the military occupation ends, the role of the Palestinian authority will in this case be comprehensive.

Here I wish to say, once again, that the main thing is to view this issue as a very serious one that needs patience and perseverance. We have no ready-made solutions. We are dealing with a unique, extraordinary, and unprecedented situation. Therefore, it is natural to see incomplete solutions because these are transitional, and not final solutions.

[Samawi] But we hope to arrive at permanent and complete solutions that will return the territory and establish the comprehensive peace.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Exactly. Here I wish to point out that within the framework of this process, Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is a basic and central element. I am not saying this as a slogan, often repeated when talking about this subject. For example, in our economic talks with the Israelis, which may start in a week and last for several weeks, we cannot reach agreements before having a joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement over so many issues, such as customs, taxes, the entry and exit of commodities, transportation, and other issues. The two parties must be speaking from the same grounds in order to be able to guarantee the Jordanian and Palestinian common interests. Palestinian interests cannot be separated from Jordanian interests, or vice versa. Therefore, I believe cooperation between the two parties must be strengthened over the economic and administrative issues—and there are many details that have to be

worked out by the Palestinians and Jordanians, there are issues concerning water and others issues. The cohesion should not remain limited to slogans only. We have to detail it and find practical solutions and move within the context of this practical solution to deal with it in the negotiations with the other party.

[Samawi] Thank you for this interview, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Ladies and gentlemen: On your behalf, we thank PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you very much.

Al-Najjab Urges Rejection of Accord

JN1402114094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p 27

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab refused to participate in the Executive Committee meeting which began in the Tunisian capital last evening. The meeting was called for by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Najjab said he did not attend the meeting to protest the manner in which the Executive Committee was treated. He said the decisions of the committee and the instructions it gave to the Palestinian negotiating delegation were not respected. The Cairo agreement between 'Arafat and Peres was a deviation from all these decisions and instructions. Al- Najjab urged the Executive Committee members to reject the Cairo agreement because it entrenches the Israeli understanding of the Declaration of Principles.

Al-Najjab, who is the representative of the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] in the Executive Committee, warned against continuing the current policy of dealing with the negotiating process, which is proceeding without any terms of reference and any clear negotiating plan that is committed to the Palestinian understanding of the Oslo agreement, whose objective is to secure Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and to guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Al-Najjab warned against the danger of unilateral and unstudied decisions, and against responding to pressures employed by foreign parties that do not take into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Najjab called anew for respecting the Executive Committee's decisions and for organizing its action as the higher Palestinian authority, including its decision to form a body responsible for negotiations that no party can overstep. He also called for adopting a Palestinian negotiating plan that reflects the Palestinian militant concept of the Oslo agreement, and for assigning qualified Palestinian politicians the task of implementing this plan.

Following the signing of the Cairo agreement, the PPP's Political Bureau issued a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-RA'Y. The statement urged the Executive Committee to reject this agreement and to lay down new bases for the negotiations aimed to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The statement described the agreement as disappointing to the popular aspirations, and said the warnings expressed by the PPP when it conditionally accepted the Oslo agreement were legitimate. Since the beginning, the PPP has called for giving the Oslo agreement a militant concept and not to view it as a petition presented to the Israeli authorities. The PPP also called for working out a clear negotiating plan, for high Palestinian performance, and for a fixed political authority. These demands ensure that the Oslo agreement will be the beginning of the march toward independence, and prevent the Israeli concept of implementation of the agreement, which would entrench the occupation.

The Cairo agreement is closer to the Israeli understanding of the Oslo agreement. It adopted the Israeli concept of security, which is an expansionist one that seeks to entrench settlements. This concept conflicts with the natural concept of security as stipulated in Resolution 242, which is based on the 1967 borders.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Limits to Accord

NC1102161394 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Feb 11 (AFP)—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, a former chief Palestinian negotiator, said Friday [11 February] the Israeli-PLO security accord signed in Cairo did not cover issues essential to achieving a just peace in the Middle East.

"This is an accord on issues which are unimportant in relation to the ultimate goal of achieving a just peace," the former chief Palestinian negotiator at the Washington peace talks told AFP.

"The key issue to be resolved, which may lead to a just peace, is that of ending the (Israeli) settlements in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories," he said.

'Abd-al-Shafi earlier told the Arabic daily Al-Quds: "Palestine existed before this agreement, and will exist after it, but the accord will not allow Palestine ever to appear on the map of the Middle East."

He was commenting on PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's statement after signing the accord that the name of Palestine had returned to the map of the Middle East.

Meanwhile Sufyan Abu-Zayda, a representative of 'Arafat's Fatah movement in the occupied Gaza Strip, told AFP the accord "only deals with a tiny part of our demands, and will not last long if the occupation and settlements remain."

The Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, which is opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal signed in Washington on September 13, said the Cairo security agreement was "worthless," and "fulfils Israeli conditions."

"The settlements will remain a breeding ground for provocation and tension, and will allow Israel to justify its persecution of the Palestinians," said HAMAS official Khalid al-Hindi.

PLO Officials Offer 'Mixed Reaction'

JN1202094594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES," by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—The agreement initialed in Cairo on Wednesday [9 February] between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel reflected the great Israeli security concerns which delayed implementation of the Sept. 13 self-rule accord, political observers said Friday.

For Palestinians, the agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho and self-rule was far less than their minimum aspirations, and it drew mixed reaction from PLO officials.

Although people's reaction in general has been cautious, the overall response of many Palestinians was negative.

Supporters of the agreement said that when implemented, the initial impact of the harshness of the text would be softened. This was contested by other PLO officials who said that the negative elements of the Cairo agreement would be revealed upon implementation. They said since many issues have been left for further negotiation, as was the case of the Oslo agreement, it meant the door may be left open for Israel to renege on implementation as it sees.

Both supporters and opponents of the Cairo deal agreed that like the Oslo agreement, many pitfalls and ambiguities shrouded many of the articles, particularly security issues, despite the immensely detailed security procedures at border crossings. However, supporters said Palestinians had improved many of the Oslo accord's conditions, and Israel has conceded on security issues and on Palestinians' role on border crossings despite the Israeli army's opposition. "We have made many concessions in the Oslo agreement, but since everything is relevant, we believe we have improved many of the conditions stated in the Declaration of Principles," said a PLO negotiator.

A Tunis-based PLO official, who negotiated the implementation agreement in Davos, Switzerland, and Cairo said the accord was supposed to have been signed in Davos, but the Israeli army's opposition had dissuaded Israeli Prime Minister Yithzaq Rabin.

"The army felt that this agreement penetrated the strong Israeli security wall by giving Palestinians some control on border crossings. Strategically, it means a great deal for the army when they recognise the fact that they have to share security control with the Palestinian authority," he said.

He added that the initial Israeli position was to post a Palestinian flag on crossings, but it was changed into accepting the raising the flag on the building itself. "This means recognising Palestinians' authority on the entrances to Palestine."

PLO negotiators felt satisfied with most of the agreement despite the fact that many issues remained to be negotiated. They said negotiations with the Israeli delegation were a very difficult battle.

"In practice, we were negotiating with three Israeli delegations—the army who were the hardliners, (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres the moderate, and (Prime Minister Yithzaq) Rabin, who was less hardline than his army generals," a PLO negotiator said. The PLO leadership was concerned that the delay in the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord was eroding support for it among Palestinians and it would only have drawn more divisions and bloodshed in the occupied territories. Initialing the agreement, they argued, would give internal momentum for the negotiations on implementation of the Oslo accord.

Some Palestinians argued that the PLO leadership had conceded a lot to Israel in order to sign the agreement.

Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, however, considered the Cairo agreement "dangerous" saying it included many loopholes and PLO concessions.

What has been accepted in Cairo was redeployment of Israeli troops rather than withdrawal since Israel has been given control over areas surrounding Jewish settlements much bigger than the size of settlements, he said.

"The agreement has given Israel all its wants regarding security issues, and nothing for Palestinians. Israel has also been given control of a number of roads connecting Jewish settlements which divide the Gaza Strip," Mr. al-Najjab said.

"We are very worried about the possibility that Israel might choose to accept only its own reading of the Cairo agreement...we are concerned, over some articles which indicate the continuation of occupation instead of its gradual removal as stated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," Mr. al-Najjab said.

But chief Palestinian negotiator Faysal al-Husayni, who took part in the negotiations, defended the agreement saying that both the Oslo and Cairo agreements were only a step that would ultimately lead to independence and a Palestinian state.

"Unfortunately, people cannot still distinguish between an interim period, which we are negotiating, and the final status," Mr. al-Husayni said.

"We are talking about an interim period, during which final status negotiations will start, which means we will be moving from one stage to another, and it also means we will not be able to end occupation completely and at once during the interim stage," he argued. "However, when we reach final status, it will be the period of independence and statehood."

"I think this agreement includes elements that would enable us gradually to achieve independence because it paves the way for Israeli withdrawal and redeployment from densely Palestinian populated areas," he said.

Other PLO officials called for guarantees that ensure the implementation of the agreement.

PLO official Nabil 'Amr, a supporter of the Sept. 13 accord but who calls for democratisation and political reforms in the PLO, said the Cairo agreement offers Israel the upper hand and right to be the effective reference point for all decisions. He said the need to break the deadlock reached in negotiations should not mean ignoring the pitfalls which would challenge the PLO's ability to implement what it signed.

"It seems that the need to sign the agreement after the series of unsuccessful attempts since September evidently led to a failure to include the necessary guarantees for a scheduled implementation," Mr. 'Amr said.

He said the PLO leadership should start working on securing such guarantees in order to ensure better conditions during the interim and final periods.

Some senior members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), who, for months, have been preparing to enter Gaza and Jericho and to control security there, disapproved the Cairo agreement and felt great disappointment.

"We have no real role in security affairs or management of Jericho and Gaza Strip," said a senior PLA officer. "We were told we would enter the self-rule areas and be in full control, or at least have a big say in our own security affairs, but it seems Israel will not only maintain overall security but also manage all the details."

They were referring to such issues as stated in the text of the accord as having a policeman armed with a handgun at the border crossings and total subordination to Israeli security concerns as mentioned in many of the articles concerning border crossings.

Some residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip visiting Jordan said they were gravely concerned over the possibility that they would be more humiliated and harassed by having to go through three checking areas while crossing rather than just two.

"Now we go through the Israeli and Jordanian checking points. According to the new agreement, we will be passing through an additional Palestinian checking point," one West Bank resident said.

He said Palestinians feel terrified and humiliated by Israeli measures while crossing the bridge. "Under the excuse of security, Israel will refrain from improving these measures."

Palestinians crossing into Jordan have complained of harassment by Israeli security officers at the crossings, and humiliating body searches. The details of crossing procedures in the Cairo agreement have frightened them more. They feel there will be added security measures which will exhaust them instead of preserving their dignity.

Both Mr. al-Najjab and Mr. 'Amr criticised the PLO's negotiating strategy which led to the loopholes in the Oslo and Cairo agreements. They called on the PLO leadership to clearly define and reconsider its negotiating strategy in order to improve the Palestinian position in peace talks and to avoid surprises.

Mr. al-Najjab, upset that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed the Cairo agreement before presenting it to the Executive Committee for approval, also criticised the PLO leader for downgrading his position and accepting to negotiate with Mr. Peres, the foreign minister, as his equal.

'Arafat has accepted the role of the head of Palestinian delegation in the PLO-Israeli liaison committee instead of Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin). This gives Israel the right to demand that Palestinians return to a higher reference than 'Arafat for final decision...this weakens the Palestinians' negotiating position," Mr. al-Najjab said.

He said Palestinians were worried that if such concessions were repeated, the PLO leadership would lead the people to further "dangerous pitfalls" because the leadership has been acting without being accountable to any side.

Territories Express 'Mixed Feelings'

TA1102172594 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 94 p 3

[Excerpts] Palestinians in the territories greeted the signing of the agreement in Cairo with mixed feelings. There were no expressions of joy over the additional step on the way to the implementation of the agreement on self-government, but people intensely followed media reports about the talks.

"Until people see changes happening before their very eyes they will not believe that a new era is indeed on their doorstep," Ghassan al-Khatib, a leading member of the team conducting the peace talks, said shortly before the agreement was signed.

Al-Khatib is one of a group of public figures who have been strongly criticizing the PLO leadership's decision-making process. Palestinians involved in the peace process have been resentful over the fact that they have not been included in the talks ever since the Declaration of Principles was signed. In view of this criticism, Faysal al-Husayni was summoned to Cairo at the last minute.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is not sure that the Cairo agreement constitutes a step forward. He heads the critics of the PLO leadership, and has not budged from his position that the settlements are the obstacle precluding the attainment of the main goal. "As long as the settlements remain untouched and as long as land, particularly in Jerusalem, is being confiscated to build houses I do not think we are advancing toward the goal we are seeking to reach."

The aspiration for a just peace that meets the expectations of both peoples is not being realized, 'Abd-al-Shafi believes. Israel is forcing on the Palestinians all sorts of clauses and things that they should not accept.

Moreover, he believes that the insistence on controlling the border crossings was unnecessary. "Let Israel go on controlling the borders. It does not matter, as long as there is a change on our side," said 'Abd-al-Shafi, alluding mainly to the settlements and what ensues from their continued existence. [passage omitted]

Furayh Abu-Middayn is pleased that some progress has been made in the talks, but like many others in the Gaza Strip, is sorry that Yasir 'Arafat was forced to accept conditions and arrangements he does not like and which might cause problems in the future.

"Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is not pleased either, but he realizes that the Palestinians are the weak side because Rabin is unwilling to give in. 'Arafat hopes that a new mechanism of relations will nevertheless evolve that will enable a substantial change in the future."

What worries Abu-Middayn most is the arrangement concerning the roads leading to the settlements. "The continued presence of Israeli soldiers in the area constitutes a powder keg. This friction will cause problems. We will not be able to control the extremists, and extreme soldiers may also act irresponsibly."

In his opinion, an arrangement could be worked out similar to the convoys driving to Mount Scopus before 1967. "The roads could be opened to the passage of settlers two or three times a day. You need not assemble a gigantic military convoy each time they want to drive to Tel Aviv to buy a carton of milk. People in Israel apparently do not understand what this means to the Palestinians who have to be in contact with the soldiers day in and day out."

The arrangement concerning Netzarim and Kfar Darom is absolutely illogical, says Abu-Middayn. "Because of 40 people, hundreds of thousands will suffer," he says. If the inhabitants of Netzarim and Kfar Darom were relocated, even to settlements in the Qatif Bloc, the Palestinians would retain territorial continuity and there would be fewer points of friction. He claims he has heard Netzarim settlers say they are willing to leave. "They will quit the moment they get compensation and, if not, they will slowly leave of their own volition," he asserted.

Gazans: 'Cautious,' 'Downbeat'

NC1002184294 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By Sakher Abu El Oun]

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Feb 10 (AFP)—Palestinians in the occupied territories shrugged off the Israel-PLO security accord on Thursday [10 February], doubting that much would change for them in the near future.

'Arafat tried to tell his people that Palestine was back.

"Palestine and the name of Palestine have returned to the map of the Middle East," he said after signing the deal in Cairo on Wednesday night.

But few seemed to be listening on the Gaza Strip and West Bank, where reaction was at best prudent.

"I'm bitterly and cautiously optimistic," said 32-year-old sweetshop owner Taysir Al-Khudari.

"The Oslo agreement did not fulfil our hopes and this Cairo agreement is no better. But what can we do? We have to accept it because the international situation is not good for us.

Gazans were more occupied with stocking up with delicacies for Ramadan, the Moslem fasting month which starts this weekend. The market was packed with people queueing for the oriental sweetmeats "halawa" and "amardine."

The eruption of joy which marked the signing of the Declaration of Principles for autonomy in Washington on September 13 seemed part of a distant past.

"I danced for eight hours because I thought the Israeli soldiers were going to leave straight away or at least by December 13 at the latest," Taysir said.

"But the deadline passed and nothing happened. There is no hope left here," he said, to nods of agreement among his customers.

Army jeeps still patrol the mean streets of the Gaza Strip, watched by a resentful population of 780,000.

"The occupation continues and the oppression will stay the same up to the last minute," said artificial limb manufacturer Hisham Saqallah. "I will start being optimistic when I see the last Israeli convoy leave."

The reaction of the Islamic fundamentalist movement HAMAS, which opposes the Middle East peace process, was predictable but nonetheless severe.

"Israel has imposed its conditions on the Palestinians, who could not make their voice heard," said Khalid al-Hindi, a HAMAS official.

"This agreement gives Israel the right to continue to hunt down Palestinians. This agreement is good for Israel because it opens the door wide to the Arab world."

Even 'Arafat's men were downbeat.

At the PLO offices in Gaza City, official Safran Abu-Zayda said: "The agreement does not satisfy our demands. But if the occupation and (Jewish) settlement continue the accord will not hold," he warned.

"Nothing has changed until now," said Fatah official Ahmad Hillis.

"Today is the same as yesterday. We have learnt to be cautious because every time the Israelis block implementation of the agreement."

Fatah Official in Gaza 'Not Pleased'

TA1102110794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Interview with Sufyan al-Zaydan, member of the Fatah Supreme Committee in the Gaza Strip, by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] What is your reaction to the agreement reached in Cairo? Are you pleased?

[Al-Zaydan] We are not pleased. It is not an agreement we are proud of; you should be proud of it. It is better for you than for us, that is clear to everyone.

[Einstein] Why?

[Al-Zaydan] Because you got everything you want, and we the Palestinians, received everything you offered us. I regret to say that due to the situation we were forced to accept it since we could not get anything better. If the Israelis had taken a bold decision to evacuate the settlements in the Gaza Strip, the whole predicament the police minister has referred to about the need for coordination between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinian police force would not have been necessary. You would have simply put up a fence near the Gaza Strip. There would not have been differences of opinion about the crossings and the police.

[Einstein] Does that mean that what is upsetting you is that the settlements are staying in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Zaydan] Believe me, that not only disturbs us, but also you, and deep down you know that it will complicate matters. We Palestinians view this agreement as a start, a new opening, a step forward, in the direction of a comprehensive, just peace. But this agreement on its own is not comprehensive peace and it cannot be relied upon to bring full peace. That is not possible.

[Einstein] You know, as I do, that it is an interim arrangement based on Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in many fields, and in fact its success will be tested through that cooperation. Do you believe cooperation will be fully achieved?

[Al-Zaydan] I see it as a test for the Palestinians and Israel. Can we make progress, take several more steps, or remain deadlocked, that is the test. I hope that both of us will succeed and we will go forward. [passage omitted]

DFLP: 'Arafat Signing 'Illegitimate'

JN1202085594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Feb 94 p 29

[Text] Taysir Khalid, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has emphasized that the front will continue to struggle alongside all Palestinian nationalist forces, organizations, and personalities against the Gaza-Jericho agreement and all forms of its implementation, including the Cairo agreement, signed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Khalid added that the signing of the Cairo agreement by Yasir 'Arafat is illegitimate and is not binding on the PLO or the Palestinian people because 'Arafat did not refer to any of the PLO institutions that have a say on the present and future of the Palestinian people.

Khalid urged the PLO Executive Committee chairman to respect the Palestinian people's will, and to subject the Gaza-Jericho agreement to a referendum among the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. He said this referendum would let the Palestinians express their opinion on this agreement and this destructive policy that furthers division within the PLO and the Palestinian people, sacrifices the Palestinian people's higher national interests, and changes the territories into protectorates under Israeli sovereignty.

Hamas Spokesman Denounces Accord

JN1302094394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 94 pp 28, 20

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that the Cairo agreement reflects Zionist control of all matters and clearly shows what happens when agreements are signed in the absence of a balance of power. That's why we were not surprised at the Zionist military quarters' support and the preliminary Palestinian reaction of frustration and denuncation.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR Ghawshah said: Anyone who reads the Cairo agreement will be angry and

furious and will wonder how any Palestinian side could sign such an agreement? [passage omitted]

Ghawshah said: This agreement, which was overshadowed by the negative reactions of even 'Arafat and his entourage, will make the Palestinian people, after recovering from their shock and bitterness, forcefully support their basic constants of holding onto the Palestinian land and liberation, no matter the cost or the arduous road.

He added: It has become evident that the Zionist octopus, which clings to every inch of the occupied Palestinian soil, will give up this land only if a lethal blow is dealt to its head. [passage omitted]

On the new mediations between Hamas and Israel, Engineer Ghawshah said: Rabin has failed to solve or emerge from the security dilemma because five months after the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and 'Arafat's instructions to halt the intifadah and his promise to punish those who do not respond to these instructions, intifadah and jihad operations continue to take place and to daily constitute a slap on the face of Rabin's government .

Ghawshah said: The Rabin government sent many ranking military and influential people to hold a dialogue with some of the Hamas leaders who are in the Zionist jails. The reply of the imprisoned brothers was clear and categorical; the refusal to stop the intifadah and jihad operations. This is the stand by which Hamas abides, a stand rejecting any dialogue with the usurper Zionist enemy. All national and popular liberation movements abide by such a stand in their confrontation of occupation. [passage omitted]

Popular Struggle Front Criticizes Accord

JN1202114494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] In Tunis, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], a PLO-affiliated group led by Samir Ghawshah, has criticized the agreement signed in Cairo by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The PPSF said that it considers the agreement incomplete, stressing that it cannot help complete talks on the other issues to reach a comprehensive agreement.

Former Communist Party Rejects Agreement

TA1302202494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] The Palestinian People's Party [PPP], formerly the Communist Party in the territories, announced tonight that it is rejecting the Cairo agreement and is demanding that the PLO Executive Committee be convened to reject the agreements reached by Peres and 'Arafat. Ghassan al-Khatib, one of the party leaders, told our correspondent Linda Sherzer that he did not believe 'Arafat would be able to muster a majority for the agreement in the Executive Committee.

The PPP contends that the Cairo agreement is based on the Israeli demands, and the arrangements stipulated in it are liable to last long after the interim period. The party, which supported the Oslo agreement, is particularly opposed to the arrangements at the border terminals and the security roads leading to the Gaza Strip settlements.

Paper: Optimism on Accord 'Premature'

TA1402112594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Feb 94 p 11

[Editorial: "What Comes After the Cairo Agreement?"]

[Text] Now that the Israeli and Palestinians sides have signed the Cairo agreement, which was drafted with considerable help from our Egyptian brothers and whose implementation will require tireless and continuous efforts, the question in the occupied territories, the Arab world, and everywhere is: What comes after the Cairo agreement?

Attempting to answer this question, the Palestinian side sees the agreement as a direct conduit for turning the Declaration of Principles [DOP] from written words on paper into facts on the ground—facts that will gradually evolve into the realization of long-term Palestinian aspirations, namely, the establishment of an independent state and the restoration of the name of Palestine to the map of the Middle East.

Israeli sources, however, are not so optimistic. They regard the Cairo agreement as the first in a series of agreements and understandings that must be reached before actual implementation of the DOP. These sources do not expect those agreements to be signed within a month.

In the aftermath of the signing of the DOP and the interim agreement, events in the occupied territories have been characterized by an escalation of Israeli practices, a considerable increase in the suffering of Palestinians, the perpetuation of the closure on Jerusalem, and the continued detention of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. All these and other developments have cast a dark shadow over any positive expectations during the past weeks. Nonetheless, the signing of the Cairo agreement has somewhat restored momentum to the negotiating process, even though this momentum has not yet been translated into reality.

Perhaps the most visible proof of the theoretical nature of the Cairo agreement is the statement by high-ranking Israeli sources that the situation in the occupied territories will remain as it is until a detailed agreement in various spheres is reached. Therefore, according to these sources, no withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will be carried out nor will any Palestinian prisoners be released before those agreements are signed.

Again, any optimism regarding the future would oe premature. Their long experience—whose most recent lesson was the disappointment and frustration of those who had pinned their hopes on the interim agreement—has taught the Palestinian people realism. Therefore, after the Cairo agreement, it is better for one to wait, be patient, and expect surprises of a different nature.

Egypt

'Pro-Fundamentalist' Paper Reports Bid To Kill Mubarak

NC1102130694 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces recently foiled a bid by Islamic militants to assassinate President Husni Mubarak, a pro-fundamentalist newspaper reported here Friday.

AL-SHA'B said nine militants of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah group, currently on trial in a military court, planted explosives at Sidi Barrani airport near the Libyan border and at Mubarak's residence at the town's military base.

They planned to detonate them during a visit by Mubarak, who holds regular meetings with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the base.

AL-SHA'B said the trial of the nine accused began in secret at the Sidi Barrani military court on January 30.

The plot was uncovered when a al-Jama'ah militant was arrested in a raid in the southern suburbs of Cairo on January 19. The militant, who was wounded in the raid, made a full confession in hospital under the influence of drugs, the paper said.

It is the second assassination plot against Mubarak to be revealed by the opposition press in Egypt. In October two militants among a group of 19 who planned to kill the Egyptian leader were sentenced to death by the Alexandria high military court.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has urged tourists and foreign investors to quit the country, saying it is stepping up its violent campaign against the authorities.

Almost 300 people have died since the fundamentalists began a campaign two years ago, aimed at toppling the government and installing an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

Foreign Minister Comments on NATO, Bosnia

NC1102124994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1046 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said Egypt believes the use of force against the Serbs in Bosnia is stipulated in a Security Council resolution and requires no further discussion.

Commenting today on NATO's decision to give the Serbs 10 days to withdraw or face an air strike and on Russia's request for an urgent Security Council meeting to discuss the demilitarization of Sarajevo, Musa said Egypt and the Islamic countries will oppose any attempt to hinder the end of the Serbian aggression. He explained that if the attempts to delay things continue, then the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims must be lifted.

He stressed that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has a Security Council mandate to use force to protect UN forces and populated areas and that this mandate is sufficient, especially so in light of NATO's offer to use its resources in this regard.

Foreign Ministry sources said 'Amr Musa has asked Dr. Nabil al- 'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate at the United Nations, to convey to the UN secretary general and Security Council president Egypt's viewpoint on attempts to delay the NATO decision.

The sources added that Musa asked Egypt's permanent delegate at the United Nations to hold consultations with the Islamic countries' Liaison Group to adopt a clear stance on the issue.

Muslim Brotherhood Decries Threats to Foreigners

NC1102094594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Feb 94 p 1

[Excerpt] The mysterious "Islamic Group" statement warning and threatening foreigners in Egypt has drawn many reactions. In an exclusive statement to AL-'ARABI, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi dismissed the statement of the so-called Islamic Group as "a stupid statement issued by an unenlightened quarter." The statement is unacceptable from all religious and human aspects because it harms the interests of the country, he said.

A person describing himself as a leader of the so-called Islamic Jihad Organization telephoned AL-'ARABI and strongly denounced Tal'at Qasim's statement, saying it provides an excuse for attacking Islamic groups. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood Official Urges Continued Israeli Boycott

NC1302162794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p 5

[Article by Deputy General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Mustafa Mashhur: "Yes to the Boycott... No to Normalization."]

[Excerpts] Talk has recently intensified about normalizing ties with the Zionist enemy and ending the Arab boycott. This has happened since the Gaza-Jericho agreement, as if this agreement has abolished all barriers and the Zionist enemy has become an Arab country with which one can deal without restrictions or inhibitions. Some Arab countries might even be eager to deal with the Zionist enemy even though their relations with other Arab countries are not quite all right or are even hostile.

We all remember that when President al-Sadat concluded the Camp David Accord with the enemy, this aroused the anger of the other Arab countries and prompted them boycott Egypt, declaring that Camp David was a catastrophe in the full sense of the word because it prevented Egypt from confronting and

fighting the enemy and at the same time rendered the remaining Arab countries unable, even combined, to fight the enemy without Egypt. [passage omitted]

What has befallen some Arab countries to make them now alter their attitude? We now see some of them preparing to abolish the boycott and normalize ties with the Zionist enemy, although the latter has not changed its hostile designs, particularly its goal of establishing an Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. Neither has the enemy stopped oppressing the Palestinians—killing them, driving them from their country, demolishing their homes, and usurping their land.

We also see the U.S. commerce secretary visiting several Arab countries, hinting that the boycott has begun to unravel, and calling for its abolition while claiming untruthfully that this will serve the interests of the Arabs. We know that there are three levels of boycott: boycotting the enemy's companies and its products, boycotting foreign companies that have partnerships with the enemy, and finally boycotting foreign companies that deal with the enemy. The current talk is about abolishing the third kind, followed by the second, and finally the first.

I hereby declare: We have prior experience of dealing with the Jews. We saw how they were planning to control our trade and economy, how they had a monopoly over several basic commodities, and how they manipulated prices to serve their interests at the public's expense. The Jews have not changed. Shall we now give them another opportunity to control the Arab economies as a prelude to their political and, eventually, military hegemony over us? [passage omitted]

The United States is calling for an end to the boycott against its companies that deal with the Zionist enemy because it wants to turn the Arab world into a big market for its products while at the same time ensuring the Zionist enemy remains an industrial base equipped with technological know-how and a sophisticated infrastructure. We see the United States, and the Zionist enemy behind it, claiming that the boycott threatens the prospects of peace. They pretend to forget that the boycott decision was unanimously adopted by the Arab countries in 1950 as an expression of the rightful Arab claim to Palestine and to protect the Arab economy from being infiltrated by the enemy, who opposes Arab economic and industrial progress.

The United States pursues its own financial gain, even at the expense of other nations. By assisting the Zionist enemy, it is ignoring the Palestinians' rights, including their right to their land. This causes it to be the target of the hate and hostility of the Islamic nations, because the Palestinian cause is the cause of all Muslims which they will never abandon no matter how long the issue lasts or how many sacrifices are needed. Despite the current cruel pressures and the tyranny of the greedy, U.S. and Zionist hegemony will not last.

We tell the Arab countries: Do not abandon the boycott. Do not respond to the pressures. The boycott is a political and economic tool to boost the Arab world's economic growth and protect Arab investment and workers. This boycott has its roots in the depths of Arab patriotic and religious sentiments. It must remain rigidly airtight, impervious to any attempts to smuggle Zionist goods to Arab markets via third countries after changing the labels that attribute them to the Zionist enemy.

O Arabs, do not bear the onus of terminating the boycott and the disastrous consequences it will bring to future generations, who will undoubtedly curse you for it. [passage omitted]

When he concluded the Camp David Accord, al-Sadat said he wanted to eliminate the hostility and thaw the icy barriers between Egyptians and Jews. However, the Muslim Egyptian people who were angered by the usurpation of Palestine's blessed land rejected this normalization despite the government's attempt to impose it on them in various spheres of activity. Only a few biased opportunists, disloyal to their nation and religion, went along with it. Furthermore the attempted normalization has had several adverse effects: Some Jews have been involved in narcotics and counterfeit currency cases and have attempted to spread AIDS or sow sedition between Muslims and Christians. We ask those who advocate normalization: What will its benefits be? It will bring no benefits; it is entirely bad.

Our Arab countries must protect themselves from this evil, which will corrupt our young people, ruin our economy, and spoil all spheres of life. The creed followed by our Muslim people imposes a duty on us: to evict these gangs from Palestine. We must learn that appeasement will enable them to occupy our countries and pursue their quest for a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates, and indeed as far as the city of the Prophet [Medina], may God's peace and prayer be with him.

Current events increase our pain. The United States, Rabin, and others are putting pressure on Yasir 'Arafat to accept the enemy's conditions to complete this humiliating agreement. 'Arafat believes it will lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Rabin, on the other hand, wants it to be a Jewish colony where Palestinians run the service sector. We recently even heard Yasir 'Arafat saying that he does not want a Palestinian state—thereby arousing the anger of many around him—but a confederation with Jordan. Additionally, it is not in the Jews' nature to keep promises or covenants. They break them if that is to their benefit.

Arabs and Muslims, you must abide by this principle: "Yes to the boycott, no to normalization." You must then work and carry on a jihad to liberate all Palestine from the river to the sea. God will give succor and victory comes only from him.

"No" to those who say that the boycott can be ended after peace is attained, for there will be no peace, but

surrender and subservience. The Muslims will not submit to the enemies of God and humanity.

Papers Examines, Lauds PLO-Israeli Peace Accord

NC1102092294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb MENA)—The Cairo newspapers today stated that the will of peace has imposed itself on the Middle East and that intentions of armed conflict have receded after Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres signed the Cairo Agreement to implement the Gaza-Jericho Accord.

AL-AKHBAR said the agreement will help toward signing a final accord between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to implement the Declaration of Principles, which everyone hopes will end the tension and bloody conflict prevailing in the region for approximately 50 years.

The paper called on Israel to eliminate any potential obstacles that might mar the tranquility of the negotiations' final phase or that might impede the required measures to implement the accord.

The paper warned against building new settlements that will create disputes and a conflict of authority in these territories at a time when understanding and cooperation are needed to streamline the transfer of power in an atmosphere of tranquility and coexistence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to bring the Palestinian and Israeli views closer until the Cairo Declaration was signed.

It said: Egypt hosted Palestinian and Israeli negotiating delegations and was open to a difficult dialogue between the two sides at a crucial moment and while the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators faced a difficult situation. The Palestinian negotiator relied on vast Egyptian experience of dialogue and formulating negotiating positions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expressed the hope that the peace process will extend east to include Jordan and Israel and north to include Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

AL-AHRAM emphasized that Egyptian diplomacy did all it could to push negotiations between the two sides to the shore of safety in line with its historical and cultural role in the region as the largest Arab country.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Questions Clinton's Report to Congress

LD1202165394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Feb, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has made the following statement to JANA:

The world laughs from ear to ear when it hears the American President's report to Congress to the effect that Libya represents an extraordinary threat to the United States. The American President himself does not believe in what he presented to the Congress, because if Libya was like a threat, then America would not have been able to treat it in this inhuman way, but it seems that the American President is obliged to say this to Congress for several reasons: First: He himself is a victim of aggressive imperialist circles and because he is part of the their game and is under their pressure.

Second: He thinks of America's regime as being dictatorial in accordance with the emergency law that allows the American President to rule in a completely dictatorial manner if America's interests abroad are threatened. This was the very pretext of Reagan when he wanted to shed the blood of Libyan children and when he wanted to rule America with absolute and autocratic rule for eight years—this was in fact what he achieved.

Third: Orders may have been issued from Tel Aviv to the White House to make the above statement, and this is the most probable. In all cases, the American President must prove this to the United Nations to whom Libya will necessarily have recourse for investigations into this serious accusation. Or is it congratulations from the American President to the Libyan people on the occasion of Ramadan? On a personal level, it might be a reply to the condolences that al-Qadhdhafi sent to him following the death of his mother, although most analysts believed that there was a typing mistake and the one intended was Japan and not Libya.

Source Denies Libyan Connection to Diplomat's Murder

LD1402102794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Feb (JANA)—An official source here today denied the French news agency's report that quoted a Jordanian official source as having said that Libya is the unspecified state which King Husayn referred to in connection with the Jordanian diplomat's assassination.

The source said: Such allegations which some Western information media have been circulating are totally untrue. He said: We are convinced that involving Libya's name in this seeks to harm Libya and, by the same token, to undermine the fraternal good relations that link it with fraternal Jordan. The source stressed that Libya has no connection with such actions which it condemns and rejects.

National Salvation Front Aide Interviewed

PM1102101794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, by 'Ali al-Ruzz in London; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Ruzz] There is much talk about the possibility of a split within the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL]. Is that true?

[Al-Muqaryif] All organizations and parties, especially the big ones, sometimes have differences of opinion and even differences of positions. This is one of the facts which apply to any political action. No organization has been able to avoid it or brag about it. An organization such as the NFSL, entering its 13th year in the face of a regime which has many resources and capabilities at its disposal, and carrying out its task against a background of serious and continuously changing regional and international circumstances, cannot be expected not to encounter situations and changes over which there would be some differences of opinion ... That is what has occurred within the NFLS over the past months.

I would like to draw the attention of those interested in Libyan affairs and Libyan opposition affairs to the fact that what is important is not the occurrence of differences but the extent of the organization's ability to face and discuss them in a democratic and civilized way. The developments you have mentioned proved that the NFSL is capable of finding appropriate solutions through its democratic institutions represented by the field offices, the leadership body, the Permanent Bureau, and the National Council, which will be meeting soon to complete its resolution of pending issues.

[Al-Ruzz] Is there a split?

[Al-Muqaryif] There is no split. There are differences, sometimes sharp differences, over organizational and struggle issues. Some of them were discussed during the meeting of the Permanent Bureau, and discussion of the remaining issues will be completed at the meeting of the National Council.

[Al-Ruzz] Could the differences lead to a split?

[Al-Muqaryif] We believe that is unlikely and we hope it would not happen. Even if it did happen, it would be a familiar phenomenon in the world of the organizations with circumstances similar to our own.

[Al-Ruzz] In the event of a split, how—candidly speaking—would that reflect on the NFSL's performance?

[Al-Muqaryif] I will not make the mistake of saying that it would not affect the NFSL. It would be painful and regrettable for any front or organization to lose any of its sons, but what I do know and am certain of is that the NFSL has enough manpower and struggle mettle to healthily overcome any negative phenomenon, God forbid. Do not forget that the NFSL has, throughout its march, undergone some fierce crises which could have blown away its entire existence, such as the times of its exit from Morocco in 1983, from Sudan in 1985, and from Chad in 1990.

[Al-Ruzz] Have the attempts to mend the rift been fully exhausted?

[Al-Muqaryif] I have already said that the Permanent Bureau tackled many issues during its meeting of last December and left it to the National Council, which is the highest authority, to deal with the other issues. The council members have been summoned to an extraordinary meeting to complete that task.

[Al-Ruzz] There are those who criticize you for having hastily announced that the NFSL claimed responsibility for the Bani-Walid military incidents last October, as a result of which dozens of the NFSL's supporters inside Libya were arrested.

[Al-Muqaryif] What I would like to emphasize—and hope would put an end to the controversy over that matter—is that the October events were in fact a real and strong uprising in which a large number of men from the Libyan Armed Forces in Bani-Walid, Misratah, and Tarhunah participated. The regime was violently shaken by these events and it faced them with violence.

This fact cannot be changed by the regime's attempts to trick some sectors of the media, which have put forward certain claims of the regime's own making, nor can it be changed by the differences of opinion that have emerged regarding the NFSL's responsibility.

The other point I want to stress here is that a number of officers who participated in the operation or were linked to it have managed to leave Libya and will shortly meet with the media and present all the facts they know about what happened, and will reveal the extent of the NFSL's connection with that serious operation.

[Al-Ruzz] May we know the names of these officers?

[Al-Muqaryif] Of course not, for the time being.

[Al-Ruzz] When will they meet with the media?

[Al-Muqaryif] In the near future. We are sure that official circles in a number of states are aware of and know what really happened, its magnitude, and the degree of the NFSL's responsibility for that.

[Al-Ruzz] What about those who were detained as a result of the NFSL claiming responsibility?

[Al-Muqaryif] Do you think that the regime waits for the NFSL's announcement before taking savage and severe action against the members of the military and the civilians it suspects of having moved against it? The regime does not need any announcement from anyone. Its record over the past years confirms that fact. Actually, the NFSL acted out of a sense of responsibility about that internal act of heroism which the regime tried to play down and demean, and for which it tried to give other reasons—such as claiming that a number of officers rebelled because of a delay in the payment of their salaries, or that they moved militarily for tribal reasons. Our knowledge of the truth of that action and the men who were behind it made us move to tell the

world that it was part of the Libyan people's opposition movement seeking to overthrow the regime in favor of a democratic alternative.

[Al-Ruzz] Why do you give so much importance to the October military movement, which was over in two days?

[Al-Muqaryif] I believe that the October movement was one of the largest and most serious movements against the regime, be it in reference to the nature of the movement, preparation for and participation in it, or its timing. Prior to that movement the regime had believed that the tribes were loyal to it, and it relied considerably on their men. But the occurrence of that movement and the participation of tribal people in it faced the regime with a new situation. For one thing, it could no longer depend on the loyalty of these tribes and, second, it could not fill the great vacuum created after the expulsion and arrest of members of these tribes in the various army units, security organs, and other civilian sectors.

[Al-Ruzz] Those opposed to the NFSL criticize its close links with the United States and maintain that these links confuse matters and rob it of its independence?

[Al-Muqaryif] The NFSL has, since its foundation, been anxious to understand the regional and international realities related to the Libyan issue, and it has addressed these realities most evenly, wisely, and responsibly. That in no way means that the NFSL has at any time forfeited its independence, will, or national aspirations. The Bab-al-'Aziziyah operation was the best evidence of that. Furthermore, the fact that the NFSL had initiated and maintained its military program in Chad as represented by the Libyan National Army and its struggle in the most difficult circumstances was another example of that fact. There can be no doubt that the October events were another manifestation of that at a time when many thought that the NFSL had forfeited its will to struggle against the regime in the face of international developments and changes.

[Al-Ruzz] It has been claimed that Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif is the obstacle standing in the way of unification of the opposition factions, and that his way of addressing that issue has frequently impeded the unification process....

[Al-Muqaryif] It would be better not to address this question to me. I wish you had addressed it to the NFSL's institutions. I wish you had asked them: Did Muhammad al-Muqaryif really try to impose his views on this matter? I believe that accepting such a claim would mean that all the NFSL's institutions, including men and fighters, are just a front manipulated by the secretary general. Nobody would believe or accept such a claim.

I am proud to belong to a democratic organization based on men who have chosen its objectives, methods, and policies. All I and my brothers in the leadership do is implement and carry out the resolutions passed by the National Council in its past sessions. Furthermore, I have no personal opinion on that issue that is any different from the views of my brothers; and even if I did, I believe that the brothers would have prevented me from imposing that opinion on them.

[Al-Ruzz] As we are talking about unity of the opposition, what did happen at the Algeria meeting?

[Al-Muqaryif] First of all, I am not saying that the meeting of the opposition took place in Algeria. I will not say where it was held. A meeting did take place between the NFSL, the National Alliance, and the Coordination Committee. It did in fact crown the efforts of many elements of the Libyan opposition, not necessarily from the highest ranks of the leadership. The meeting took place in the middle of last October and it was attended by

We agreed that, after the signing of the statement, a committee would be formed to prepare for a general conference of the Libyan opposition, and we had hoped that the conference, which was supposed to take place 21 November, would lead to the signing of a dcoument stating the constant principles of the struggle. We in the NFSL were prepared to go all the way in the field of coordination among the factions even if that meant the formation of a unified command and joint bodies, and so on. But, regrettably, the circumstances of one of the organizations prevented the signing of the draft statement. Its leadership asked for more time to think about the matter. There can be no doubt that the sudden disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya was a great loss for these efforts, as well as for the national struggle in general, because of his tolerant nature and willingess for dialogue and the bridging of views. He played a major part in promoting the right circumstances for the present plan. His absence has greatly affected many aspects including this particular issue.

[Al-Ruzz] What do you have to say about al-Kikhya's continued disappearance?

[Al-Muqaryif] On the human level, it was a real tragedy for him, his family, his friends, and his fellow strugglers. We will undoubtedly miss him, particularly in these circumstances.

What did happen? Nobody can know for sure, but I do not hesitate to point an accusing finger at the regime as being the party behind the disappearance. There are many examples in the regime's old and recent record. The resolutions of the so-called Revolutionary Committees and al-Qadhdhafi's recent speeches confirm the new trend in the regime's way of dealing with the opposition. The Libyan regime has a major vested interest in al-Kikhya's disappearance at this stage.

We have information that the regime will not restrict its operations to just kidnapping al-Kikhya. It intends to carry out more operations. Al-Qadhdhafi's invitation to Ahmad Jibril and Abu-Nidal to Libya was for that purpose. We also have information that the regime did

not halt its efforts after Jibril and Abu-Nidal refused to settle in Libya and that he sent Colonel 'Abdallah Hijazi to them and Hijazi met with them and offered coordination of operations against the opposition.

[Al-Ruzz] How do you assess the recent government changes in Libya?

[Al-Muqaryif] Before talking about the changes, it suffices, in order to discern the tragic conditions of the Libyan people under that regime, to examine what went on at the General People's Congress and what was said by Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee, and the ministers. Salaries are not being paid and there is no education and no medical or other services.

The new government bears no particular hallmarks, except that 'Umar al-Muntasir was retained at the Foreign Ministry as someone who could help contacts with the West. It also includes a number of Revolutionary Committees members with vast experience in terrorism such as 'Izz-al-Din al-Hanshiri, Muhammad Hijazi, and Ahmad Ibrahim.

Tunisia

President, 'Arafat Discuss Mideast Peace Process

LD1202200394 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat at the Palace of Carthage. Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement after the audience:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I held a good, positive and warm meeting with the president. I acquainted him with all that has recently been agreed upon in Cairo between us and the Israelis, and the agreement which we signed. On my arrival in Tunis I sent the president a copy of this agreement so that he would be totally informed of its details. I also pointed out to the president the significance of our continuing consultations and contacts so that we could reach a final agreement, which we expect at the end of this month, God willing. This would enable us to precisely and faithfully implement what we signed in Washington last year—last September.

I listened to the advice and directives of the president, which I value highly. I thanked him, in my own name and in that of the Palestinian people, for all that Tunisia—president, government and people—gives to the Palestinian issue and to the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Presidential Candidate Unable To Hold News Conference

LD1102135094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] In Tunisia, opposition leader Moncef Marzouki was not permitted to hold a news conference yesterday afternoon. Marzouki, who is an independent candidate in the presidential elections and former chairman of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, was held for two hours at a police station. Marzouki wanted to explain to reporters the reasons for his presidential candidacy.

His candidacy needs sponsorship by 30 mayors or deputies. With one single exception, all Tunisian mayors and deputies belong to the Democratic Constitutional Assembly, the party in power. This is why Marzouki wrote to President Ben Ali, who is an official presidential candidate himself, to ask him to intervene to help him overcome the legal obstacle that is hindering his candidacy.

Kuwait

Government To Resign by End of Mid-March

NC1302223094 Paris AFP in English 2054 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Feb 13 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti cabinet will resign in mid-March and a new government will be formed, the Monday edition of AL-SIYASAH daily reported, adding that the country's leaders wanted to strengthen the executive.

The paper, citing informed sources, said the resignation would occur after 'Id al-Fitr, the feast marking the end of the Moslem holy fasting month of Ramadan which began February 11 in Kuwait.

Senior Kuwaiti officials want to "bolster the executive branch by unifying positions and speeding up the decision-making process," the paper said.

AL-SIYASAH said the current government had accomplished its mission by reviving the 1962 constitution and parliamentary life.

The outgoing 15-member cabinet was formed in October 1992 and is led by the crown prince, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. Six ministers are independent MPs or opposition members.

The key portfolios—foreign affairs, interior, defense and information—are held by members of the ruling Al-Sabah family.

The opposition swept the legislative elections of October 5, 1992 leading the previous cabinet to resign two days later.

Qatar

AFP on TV Broadcast Noting 'Suffering' of Iraqis

NC1302153194 Paris AFP in English 1457 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Doha, Feb 13 (AFP)—Qatari state television late Saturday aired a report on Iraqis "suffering" from international sanctions, the first such program by a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Shot in various Iraqi towns, the first in four episodes focused on complaints by Iraqis about the effects of the sanctions on their daily lives and comments by Iraqi officials.

Several of those interviewed said they could not understand why the embargo was being maintained "after Kuwait was returned to the Kuwaitis" and called for the Arab states to support Baghdad's position to have the sanctions lifted.

The UN embargo was imposed days after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih also told the program that his country opposed a UN resolution allowing for the sale of limited quantities of oil under United Nations control.

Iraq says the restrictions for the sale harm its sovereignty.

Besides Oman, which has always maintained normal relations with Iraq, Qatar is the only GCC country to have restored links with Baghdad after it participated in the U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

The GCC also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

United Arab Emirates

Sources Claim 'Arafat To Visit UAE

94P50098A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Feb 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Sources in Abu Dhabi yesterday stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will soon visit the UAE [United Arab Emirates] capital on his first official visit since August 1990.

'Arafat is expected to meet with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and a number of senior officials to inform them of the new developments on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to conclude an autonomy agreement for Gaza and Jericho. The sources did not mention the date of 'Arafat's arrival in Abu Dhabi, but they expect it to be after the end of his talks in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

They asserted that a high-level UAE official had informed a delegation of the sons of the Palestinian colony in Abu Dhabi that the UAE had agreed to 'Arafat's visit.

The Palestinian president stopped at Abu Dhabi International Airport in October on the way from Indonesia to Turkey. He met in the airport with Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister, and a number of senior UAE officials.

Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), a member of the PLO executive committee, is the highest Palestinian personality who has visited the UAE officially since the Gulf war.

The sources state that 'Arafat will discuss with Shaykh Zayid the achievement of Arab interests and the PLO's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. It is expected that he will discuss the PLO's financial situation and aid from the Gulf states for Palestinian autonomy with the UAE officials.

Shaykh Zayid has asserted more than once the UAE's continuing support for the Palestinian people and its intifadah in the occupied territories. The UAE has advocated offering financial aid of some $50 million within the framework of the aid, which will be offered to the autonomous areas in the occupied territories.

The UAE and the other member states in the GCC have supported the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed on 13 September in Washington, considering it a first steop toward the return of the Palestinian people's rights and the establishment of their independent state.

Yemen

Official Interviewed on Political Accord Document

NC1202111094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Group and member of the National Accord Committee, in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al- Ansi. Several dates have been mentioned for the signing of the Pledge and Accord document between the Yemeni president and his deputy. As a member of the National Accord Committee, can you tell us if a date has been agreed on for the signing of the document?

[Al-Ansi] Contacts were held with officials in the fraternal Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan. It was agreed in principle that the signing will take place on 20 February and that the final confirmation will be made on Saturday, God willing. This is the date agreed on in principle.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. al-Ansi, who will attend this signing?

[Al-Ansi] The signing will, of course, be witnessed by the Political Dialogue Committee and the former presidents of North and South Yemen, that is Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal, Judge 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Iryani, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important clauses in this document, which has taken a long time to formulate?

[Al-Ansi] The most important thing in it is its reference to the bases for building the modern Yemeni state, the state of law and order. This is manifested by the bases on which this state will be established. Then there are the state's establishments and structures as represented by the Presidential Council, the government, and the Chamber of Deputies. A council has been established, the Shura Council. It also refers to the economic and administrative structures and lastly to the issue of building the armed and security forces. We regard these to be the important bases for building the state.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does this document satisfy the ambitions and requirements of the two sides, that is, the president and his deputy?

[Al-Ansi] This document represents the common denominator that binds all the influential forces in Yemen. As I told the Voice of the Arabs previously, the issue is not about the president and his deputy but about the country. It is the issue of developments in Yemen that might not have been understood and that probably have not been handled properly. Therefore, these developments expressed themselves in this crisis. It is true that the president and his deputy are regarded as the face of the crisis, but the latter is much deeper than this. Everyone involved in this document was motivated more by a patriotic feeling than by partisan calculations. It does not represent a specific party or specific political force but the common denominator binding all the forces that want what is good for Yemen.

[Abu-al-Majd] But Mr. al-Ansi, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has said that this document might be submitted to a referendum. Could this be done?

[Al-Ansi] It took us a long time to deal with this issue. We completed studying the constitutional, legal, and procedural guarantees for implementing this document yesterday. Discussion of what is required from the existing constitutional establishments took us a long time. There was a view that these establishments should support this document and that they should not be involved because implementation will be carried out through them. Their role will come after the document is signed and implementation begins. The Chamber of Deputies will have its turn when it comes to the constitutional amendments and the draft laws. The government's role will come when it lays down the plans and timetable for implementing the document. We concluded in our discussion that there is no need for a referendum.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. al-Ansi, you said that a consultative council has been set up. Does this mean that the existing parliament is not performing its role as required or that you felt the need to create this council?

[Al-Ansi] This is an extremely important question. I am glad you gave me the opportunity to explain what this consultative council is. First, regarding the name of this council, perhaps one could have found a better name than this. Discussions in this consultative council have focussed on dual legislation in Yemen. The answer from everyone was no because there is no justification for this duality. Agreement was reached from the very beginning that this council does not have any legislative responsibilities. The current parliament is the sole body responsible for legislative and administrative matters. The objective of this council is to sponsor the local government or local administration experiment and to express an opinion over the laws and judicial matters of the local

government. Its main function is advisory. It has no legislative duties at all. Therefore, there is no contradiction between it and the parliament. Its existence does not mean that parliament is not performing its role as it should. This is not the case at all. The objective of this council is to represent the governorates, first and foremost, in development matters and in activating the administrative units so that they protect the interests of these units and supervise their activities. It has no legislative duties at all. It is a purely consultative council.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will the assassinations that have taken place recently stop after the Pledge and Accord document is signed, and what is the fate of the Armed Forces command? Who will command the Armed Forces? This topic has been raised many times.

[Al-Ansi] Regarding the Armed Forces, there is a comprehensive agreement; there are measures stipulated by the document. These urgent measures include relocating the camps that were in what was called [word indistinct] before the unity to border areas and areas that need protection. This is the first step. After that, the comprehensive step of merging the Armed Forces completely will take place, after which they will be deployed in areas where they are needed. There is total agreement among all political forces in Yemen to make the Armed Forces neutral and turn them into a force that protects constitutional legitimacy that stems from the parliamentary elections.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear brothers, at the end of this dialogue, we thank you and Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Group and member of the National Accord Committee. Thank you.

[Al-Ansi] On our part, we always thank the employees of Voice of the Arabs and express through this radio station our greetings to the Arab people in Egypt and through them all the Arab and Islamic nations.

Official Comments on Hopes for Accord

JN1002155194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council; and brothers Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the minister of interior; and Muhammad Hasan Dammaz, minister of local administration today attended the graduation ceremony of the first group of district security officers and of other groups of graduates from training courses organized by the high police institute.

During the ceremony, which began with a recital of verses from the Koran, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, delivered a speech in which he congratulated the graduates on their success in the course and on the approach of the holy month of Ramadan, wishing the Yemeni people many happy returns full of good fortune, welfare, and happiness.

He said the Political Forces Dialogue Committee today will finalize arrangements for the signing of the document of pledge and accord which the political forces completed last month. He hoped that the political leadership will sign this document within a week from today. This document was completed after a lengthy dialogue among the political forces because of the crisis which our country has been facing since 9 August 1993.

The brother member of the Presidential Council said that the crisis had negative effects on the various political, economic, and social fields, noting that it resulted in many things we hoped will never happen and the consquences of which will be assumed by those who caused it. He hoped that after the signing of the document, our country will enter a new stage of security, stability, and serious action in order to compensate for the events of the past period in which matters reached a state of paralysis in all parts of the country.

He added that thanks to God almighty and Yemeni wisdom, the Yemeni people and their political forces resorted to dialogue as a means to resolve problems. He noted that the dialogue led to this document to which we are committed and which we will implement, in text and spirit, because it contains many guidelines for tackling a number of political issues in local government, economic and security issues, the Armed Forces, and other issues that were the cause of this crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Ghani hoped that the graduates will perform their duty in this important security field with absolute sincerity and dedication. He noted that all our Yemeni people and those working at the Interior Ministry, who shoulder a primary responsibility of maintaining the country's security and stability, should pay more attention to security in our country.

Concluding his speech, he congratulated the graduates and valued the teaching staff's great efforts and sincere work to render this course a success. [passage omitted]

Committee To Sign Accord in Amman 20 Feb

JN1102203594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, rapporteur of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, explained that the committee last night concluded its discussions and approval of issues pertaining to the constitutional, legal, and procedural guarantees concerning the signing of the accord document in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Brother Ahmad Jabir 'Afif indicated that based on an agreement with the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom

of Jordan, it has been decided to set 10 Ramadan, corresponding to 20 February, as the date for signing the agreement.

At the conclusion of his statement, brother Ahmad Jabir 'Afif extended the Political Forces Dialogue Committee's congratulations to our Yemeni people and all peoples of Arab and Islamic nations on the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Government Tries To Win Release of Chinese Hostages

NC1402112194 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 14 (AFP)—The Yemeni Government is trying to win the release of three Chinese technicians who were kidnapped while helping to build a road in Yemen's rugged northeast, Chinese Embassy officials said here Monday.

"We hope they will be freed in the next few days," a Chinese diplomat said. "The Yemeni Government is working hard for their release."

The three were kidnapped Saturday morning while working on a road between Hija, 127 kilometers (75 miles) north of Sanaa and Ma'rib, 173 kilometers (100 miles) east of the capital, embassy officials said.

Yemeni sources meanwhile said the Chinese were kidnapped by three people wanted by the police for various murders.

There were no details on what the kidnappers wanted and where they were holding the technicians.

The three were working under the terms of a Yemen-Chinese cooperation accord. In the 1980s China helped the former north Yemen build several roads, including one between Sanaa and Hija.

The Chinese were kidnapped the same day that Ahnum tribesmen in the country's northwest freed three French tourists they had held for 20 days in a bid to force the government to build a road through their region.

Salih Speech Marks Beginning of Ramadan

JN1102154894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 94

["Text" of address by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 10 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In this chaste month, which God endowed with numerous virtues and declared that it be a month of solidarity and charity, and in which we have been ordered as Muslims to fast, we would do well to rise above our differences, discard our mutual hatreds, be patient and wise, put the interests of the homeland before all other interests, rally together, and heal the rifts as enjoined by the spiritual, exalted values preached by our virtuous Islamic faith—the religion of brotherhood, equality, freedom, and justice.

This year, the holy month of Ramadan begins after the expanded National Dialogue Committee completed the accord document, which is just waiting to be signed. The delay may have been an act of God so the signing of the document would coincide with the early days of this month, during which human beings are closest to God.

I take this religious and worthy occasion to urge all official and unofficial media to call a halt to vituperation and turn a new leaf in the life of our united Yemen and our pioneering democratic exercise. [passage omitted]

I would like to say how grateful and thankful I am to our steadfast and patient people who have borne all manner of distress and weathered the consequences and ill effects of the crisis. I would also like to reiterate that we are readily available for a joint effort with all the partriotic, unionist, benevolent, and dedicated forces to maintain the unity of the country and entrench the democratic choice, and work together toward the resolution of all issues and problems our homeland and people are facing in a responsible and brotherly spirit that puts the interests of the homeland before any parochial interests. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Discusses Ways To 'Confront' Embargo

JN1002123194 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 94 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Salah al-'Abd in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-'Abd] We are holding this interview amid the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq. This makes it the first topic in this interview. What new methods are there to confront the blockade against our people at this stage, particularly if it continues for a long time? Is there any new concept for confrontation on the local, Arab, and international levels?

[Ramadan] Much has been said about the blockade from the day it was imposed on Iraq before the military aggression. The way this blockade was implemented and applied and the way it was followed up demonstrates the intentions of the powers that imposed it. Today it is more obvious than was the case two years ago; more obvious than was the case on the first day that imposing and following up the blockade had nothing to do with what they claimed; namely, the issue of Kuwait.

When we view the details and nature of the dealing between the American United Nations and Iraq, it becomes clear that the imposition of the blockade was aimed at stopping the stage of Iraq's awakening which forms the beginning of the Arab nation's awakening. Had Iraq's stand been confined to the Iraqi region, the proportion of dealing with it would not have been on that level of bestiality. However, they are aware that any awakening in Iraq will serve the Arab nation no matter how they deepen differences and expand boundaries and parochialism. The Arabs will certainly reject this because they believe that whatever happens in Iraq reflects on them positively or negatively. The Arabs have expressed this in many meetings and activities in Iraq and the Arab world despite the pressures put on them by certain governments and regimes. These stands have vividly demonstrated that our Arab nation is one, that our Arab people are one people with the same fate, that the blockade's aims are now clear; namely, they are not linked to Kuwait.

The blockade is a struggle between the nation's awakening in confronting its enemies on the one hand and those who have vested interests in continuing hegemony over and exploiting its capabilities and various resources on the other. Therefore, it is the duty of each Iraqi and Arab to confront this condition. The Iraqi leadership, especially President leader Saddam Husayn, has never been under any illusion that the blockade would be lifted when the enemy slogan, which they had claimed was the cause of their action, disappeared.

The blockade will erode and wither away by building the society's own resources and will be completely lifted when the criminal enemies realize that it is impossible to achieve the aims for which they imposed this blockade on Iraq.

Any observer of Iraq's march, particularly after the cease-fire will clearly see that the progress achieved in Iraq was an expression of the slogan of building self-reliance leading to the blockade's erosion. A great deal has been achieved in the field of returning life to normal and building the pillars of renaissance in terms of quantity, quality, and originality. The efforts that were exerted cannot be compared with those exerted in various stages of building in the past, despite the fact that we had enormous material resources then.

The result of this is that the international position toward Iraq is not as unanimous as it was three or two years ago—despite the fact that you still hear statements about blockade made in different accents, you no longer hear the single voice. Why? It is not because these parties are now feeling guilty about their previous positions on Iraq. It is because the Iraqis rose to the level of the battle and these parties realized that they will definitely not gain even the minimum amount of the benefits they thought they could gain from the blockade.

The states that have helped, and are helping, drag out the blockade will be sorry because they have lost a great deal of their interests with Iraq. This is not just an interpretation, but a fact. So many of these states have begun to speak publicly about their material and economic losses that resulted from the blockade imposed on Iraq. Why has this happened? If Iraq disintegrated or collapsed or if a foreign power was imposed on it, we would not have heard what we are hearing in various countries of the world. This contradiction will grow further in the future and will undoubtedly lead to the deterioration of the blockade, leaving in disgrace every one that contributed to it, regardless of the motives and reasons of this or that country.

As for the confrontation on the local, Arab, and world front, changes are interconnected. Any development in Iraq's power, responsibilities, and ability to stand fast will reflect on the Arab and international levels.

We say that 1994 is an important year and not like any other year of the blockade. The Mother of Battles has produced several facts and exposed the reasons and objectives of the blockade, as well as the enemy intentions. What Iraq has offered to the United Nations and its cooperation with it have deprived the real conspirators and those who were dragged by them of many cards. This is especially the case following the Iraqi position toward Resolution 715. We tell the United Nations and any other international party that they are responsible for the continued blockade. There is no justification for maintaining it, even from the viewpoint of the United Nations, now that Iraq has abided by all resolutions.

We absolutely confident that the Iraqi people will emerge triumphant. All nations will acknowledge the

Iraqi people's contribution, strength, patience, and sacrifices. The Iraqi people have made great sacrifices to uphold the principles of justice, right, humanity, freedom, and independence. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Abd] What can you tell us about Iraqi-UN talks on resuming Iraqi oil exports?

[Ramadan] We do not view the lifting of the embargo through the resumption of oil exports as line with the UN formula. The UN formula is another form of the embargo against Iraq and the psychological harm done to the citizens. Yes, we want the embargo lifted and we want to resume oil exports, but without this infringing on our national independence and sovereignty. We want Iraq to sell and buy without any intervention from other powers. As for the current formula proposed by the United Nations for the resumption of oil exports, it is not acceptable, in view of its flagrant interference with sovereignty. We are confident that all the unjust formulas proposed by them under various covers—which have been used as an umbrella to perpetuate the embargo and prevent Iraq from exporting its oil—are now over. Therefore, they should now seriously consider lifting the Iraq embargo and allowing Iraq to export its oil.

[Al-'Abd] Are you optimistic about ending the embargo and a return of the economic conditions in Iraq to normal?

[Ramadan] I am optimistic that the embargo will end through the Iraqis' patience, resolve, and efforts to return life to normal, without being beholden to anybody else. This is the peak of pride for every Iraqi. In the year 1994, we should make more efforts than we did in the previous years of the embargo in the field of development, politics, spreading awareness, and mobilization, benefiting from the experience of past years. We will not begin from square one. We have a good background and a good experience by virtue of three years of hard work, day and night.

Yes, this should be our point of departure. And this will impose the willpower of the Iraqis and the good-intentioned from the sons of this nation on the enemies and criminals, primarily America and Zionism.

IAEA Sets Up 2 Monitoring Cameras at Nuclear Site

NC1102203994 Paris AFP in English 1948 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Manama, Feb 11 (AFP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency has set up two cameras at an Iraqi nuclear site under UN resolutions for the long-term monitoring of the country's arms program, an IAEA official said here Friday.

"Two close-circuit cameras have been installed and activated in an engineering facility at Um al-Ma'arik (Mother of All Battles), 20 minutes from Baghdad, with two film cameras as a back-up," said Gary Dillon, a Briton, about the site that was part of Iraq's enriched uranium production program.

"The work was carried out without a hitch and the Iraqis were cooperative," said Dillon about his seven-member IAEA team that just completed a week-long mission in Iraq.

On Feb 4, IAEA deputy chief Maurizio Zifferero said experts from his agency would remove the last batch of Iraq's irradiated fuel and start setting up cameras at former nuclear sites.

The team was to have arranged removal of the five kilograms (11 pounds) of fuel believed to be left in Iraq. Some 35 kilograms (77 pounds) were removed on December 5.

"The IAEA team will be back within two months to continue their work of installing surveillance cameras at maybe two or three more sites, where up to 20 cameras may be set up in total," Dillon said.

Another 11 chemical weapons experts, led by Horst Reeps from Germany, accompanied Dillon's team on Friday. It completed a 10-day mission to identify and collect equipment Iraq had used in producing chemical weapons.

"We completed our mission of identifying, tagging and filing 250 pieces of chemical production equipment of dual use nature. Part of these were used during the Iran-Iraq war," Reeps said.

"Our main aim was to get more information on the planned use of this equipment in the future. Iraq has said it intends to make use of them for the production of pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals," he said.

He said that some of the equipment was never used, some used on a regular basis and some would be the subject of new discussions with the Iraqis on their planned use.

In the hope of obtaining an end to a three-year embargo, Iraqi authorities are cooperating with efforts to dismantle programs for making weapons of mass destruction which are banned under UN resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war.

The embargo was imposed four days after Iraq's forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Final Batch of Enriched Uranium Shipped to Russia

NC1202163094 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 12 (AFP)—A second and final shipment of irradiated fuel was flown out of Iraq to Russia Saturday, a UN source here said.

The seven-kilogram (15.4-pound) batch was loaded onto a Russian Antonov-124 plane in al-Habbaniyah airport, 60 kilometers (36 miles) west of Baghdad. The plane went to Russia, via Kiev, Ukraine, the source added.

The fuel's removal was supervised by a seven-member team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) led by Briton Gary Dillon. The team arrived in Iraq on February 4, the source said.

The experts arranged for the fuel's transport to al-Habbaniyah by road convoy, the source said, adding that preparatory work had begun on January 9 at a site near Baghdad.

On December 5 the IAEA oversaw the removal from Iraq to Russia of a first shipment of 33 kilograms (72.6 pounds) of irradiated fuel.

Baghdad agreed last April to turn over its supplies of irradiated fuel under UN Gulf war ceasefire resolutions on the disarmament of Iraq.

IAEA deputy chief Maurizio Zifferero said at that time the removal would cost Iraq several million dollars.

The Vienna-based IAEA, a UN agency, began by removing Iraq's non-enriched uranium. A dozen kilograms (some 30 pounds) of the material was flown out to Russia in November 1993.

On February 4, Zifferero said the Iraqi nuclear program was "practically neutralized."

Dillon said Friday his team had set up two surveillance cameras during its week-long mission at a nuclear site that was part of Iraq's enriched uranium production program.

He said the IAEA experts would return within two months to install up to 20 surveillance cameras at two or three more sites, under Security Council Resolution 715, which calls for the long-term monitoring of Iraq's arms programs.

Regime Wants Anti-Bush Plotters Swap for Kuwaiti POW's

NC1302154594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwaiti Parliamentary sources have said that Saddam Husayn's regime is now setting impossible conditions for the release of the Kuwaiti captives in Iraqi prisons. One of these, they said, is the release of the 11 Iraqis now on trial in Kuwait in connection with a plan to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. The sources said the regime also wants Kuwait not to refer to its prisoners as hostages or detainees, but as missing.

The sources said Kuwait responded through the Arab League, saying that the Iraqis who are now standing trial in Kuwait entered their country carrying weapons and bombs (?and tried to carry out) assassinations, bombings, and terrorist acts. They have confessed to this and are now in the hands of the Kuwaiti judiciary. The Kuwaiti captives, on the other hand, are prisoners and [words indistinct] because the tyrant's forces kidnapped them by force in front of their families and friends during the occupation.

Prime Minister, Pakistani Envoy Meet, Discuss Ties

BK1002155694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The special envoy of the prime minister, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, had a meeting with the Iraqi prime minister, Mr. Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, in Baghdad and discussed with him bilateral relations. He stressed the need to establish fruitful cooperation in various fields once the impediments are removed. The two leaders also discussed humanitarian issues of direct concern to the two countries, including the release of three Pakistanis undergoing imprisonment in Iraq. They also exchanged views on development problems in the Third World and underlined the need for South-South cooperation.

Mr. Asif Zardari conveyed to the Iraqi prime minister greetings of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and through him to the Iraqi people. He also conveyed goodwill feelings and humanitarian concern of the people of Pakistan for their brethren in Iraq.

The Iraqi prime minister recalled the close relations that Iraq traditionally enjoyed with the government and people of Pakistan and particularly expressed his high regard for Ms. Benazir Bhutto. He said she is held in the highest esteem both by the government and the people of Iraq.

Assembly Speaker, Envoy Note Embargo

JN1002204294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—National Assembly speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Asif Zardari, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's personal envoy to leader President Saddam Husayn, and his accompanying delegation.

The National Assembly speaker asserted that Iraq's friends are dutybound to work and pressure the Security Council to lift the unjust embargo against the Iraqi people, now that all its justifications no longer exist.

Salih also valued Pakistan's positive stands at the Security Council toward Iraq's just cause. He pointed to the deep historical ties and good relations between Iraq and Pakistan.

Asif Zardari said there is a need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the unfair economic embargo. He said there is no justification for the continuation of the embargo.

The two officials stressed the need to enhance parliamentary ties between the two countries by exchanging visits, forming friendship committees, unifying positions, and doing what is in the interest of the Iraqi and Pakistani peoples.

Foreign Minister, Envoy Meet

JN1002211194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received Asif Zardari, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides reviewed ways to enhance bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on several issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Pakistan's ambassador in Baghdad.

Envoy Views Talks

JN1402110194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[By Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahim]

[Text] Asif Ali Zardari, personal envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has said the three-year-old embargo against the Iraqi people is an inhuman crime committed by countries that claim to be civilized and to care about human rights.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, Zardari said the fact that the embargo has been in place for more than three years confirms the barbarity of these nations, which are killing the elderly and children through this embargo. The nations which claim to be civilized should reconsider their stands and heed international appeals for an immediate lifting of the embargo against the struggling Iraqi people. They should also have a humanitarian view and translate it into action.

On the effects of the embargo on the economy of Pakistan, Zardari said Pakistan had previously broad trade and economic interests with Iraq and the other Arab states. The embargo has greatly affected trade in Pakistan. We have lost a great deal due to the embargo's impact on trade and economic ties which had earlier revived the Pakistani economy. The embargo has harmed these interests and inflicted great harm on the Pakistani economy, he said.

Assessing Iraqi-Pakistani ties, the Pakistani envoy said: Iraqi-Pakistani relations date back thousands of years. They have always been strong and close. Since a friend in need is a friend indeed, Pakistan had to side with Iraq because it is experiencing difficult circumstances that require extending all kinds of support to it.

I also consider Iraq my first country because I come from the Sind province, which shares deep-rooted relations with Iraq since the Islamic conquest. Therefore, the purpose of our visit is to enhance relations between the two Muslim peoples and friendly countries.

On his talks with Iraqi officials, the Pakistani envoy said: The talks were conducted in a cordial, frank atmosphere. We exchanged views to promote cooperation in the interest of our two peoples.

Asif Zardari handed a written message to Prime Minister Ahmad Khudayyir on 9 February addressed from Benazir Bhutto to President Saddam Husayn.

Syrian Ties Said Improving 'Away From Media Clamor'

JN1102215094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 12-18 Feb 94 p 15

[Text] Basil al-Asad's death was not only a sad occasion at which the Lebanese and Syrians could show their love for the unofficial successor of President Hafiz al-Asad, it was also an occasion to mend Syria's strained relations with some Arab states. The PLO exploited Basil's death and quickly sent a high-level delegation, led by Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu-al-Lutf, to clear the air which has been heavily clouded by sharp differences following the announcement of the results of the secret Oslo talks and tha Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO. 'Arafat was not satisfied with this step. He personally participated in offering condolences to President al-Asad to break the ice between the two sides, which has cast a heavy shadow on Syrian-PLO relations.

Coincidence has also served Syrian-Iraqi ties—still the number one example of hostile relations between Arab regimes. Basil al-Asad's death coincided with the convening of a conference for Arab agriculture ministers in Damascus. Iraq was one of the countries that took part in the conference. Observers said Iraq's attendance of the conference, despite the fact that it held in Damascus, was a positive sign of Iraq's desire to improve relations with Syria.

An Arab diplomatic source in Amman said: Apparently, Iraq's response to the conference's invitation in Damascus reflects positive signs between the two countries that have been increasing secretly over the past months.

The diplomat told SHIHAN that Iraqi Agriculture Minister Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi offered condolences to President al-Asad on behalf of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This shows relations between the two sides are developing to some extent.

The diplomat pointed out that the Iraqi minister made political contacts with several Syrian officials in Damascus. Other Arab agriculture ministers noticed that Minister 'Alwan missed several conference sessions, and that

some Syrian Foreign Ministry officials were seen accompanying him. This means the Iraqi minister was holding talks with Syrian officials regarding developing relations between the two countries.

SHIHAN has learned that Damascus turned down a draft resolution proposed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain calling for an Arab protocol to exchange agricultural products between Arab states, excluding Iraq, in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Sources said Syrian Agriculture Minister As'ad Mustafa refused even to include the draft on the agenda, telling Gulf agriculture ministers that the Arab Agriculture Organization is an Arab, and not international, organization and has nothing to do with commitment to Security Council resolutions.

This Syrian position reflects progress toward improving relations with Iraq, which is being done quietly, slowly, and away from media clamor.

Saddam Receives Husayn's Ramadan Congratulations

JN1302150094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulation from King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan.

In his cable King Husayn expressed, in his name and on behalf of the fraternal Jordanian people and government, his true feelings of brotherhood, asking almighty God for many happy returns.

His majesty also wished good health and happiness for the president, continued progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people, and elevation and strength for all Muslims.

Daily Assesses Clinton Position on Arabs, Bosnia

JN1202122694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that U.S. President Clinton's positions toward the Arabs since the bombardment of Baghdad have been part of a scheme designed to pulverize the Arab nation and eliminate Islam.

In its editorial today, the paper criticizes the state of collapse and retreat that has characterized Clinton since he assumed power in the United States. Facing a host of ethical and financial scandals, which the U.S. media has drowned him in, Clinton has kneeled down until his forehead has begun to touch the ground in order to appease the media and secure their silence over his scandals, the paper said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH added: Last week, Clinton chose to lie to the Congress regarding Iraq. This week, he chose Libya with the aim of inflaming the Congress against the Arabs and Muslims.

It is known that Clinton has asked the Congress to impose more sanctions on Libya on the pretext that it threatens U.S. national security. This is the same formula Clinton used last week claiming that Iraq is trying to rebuild its nuclear weapons.

AL-JUMHURIYAH recalls the U.S. President's comment on Sarajevo's heinous massacre. He said the United States cannot unilaterally intervene to end the massacres there. The paper vehemently assailed the arrogant U.S. position on what the Bosnian Muslims are facing, noting that Clinton is not ashamed of admitting that the indifference toward what is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina emanates from the fact that the it is not a country that produces oil or strategic items.

AL-JUMHURIYAH regrets the fact that human rights issues, from the viewpoint of the world's superpower, are based on the principle of sheer material interests. This demonstrates their new approach toward implementing a criminal Malthusian policy based on the mass annihilation of humans. The paper asserted that these proposals by the White House administration reveal the criminal nature of the U.S. strategy. This strategy is based on noninterference in world events depending on two points: First, whether there is a threat to U.S. national security; second, whether there are funds and military capability outside the United States, in other words, others' resources are used to achieve U.S. objectives.

The paper urges the one billion Muslims, including the 200 million Arabs, to adopt a militant position in order to prevent the crimes of the new Malthusianism and stop the isolation of Arab and Muslim countries.

Paper Examines U.S. Efforts in Israel

JN1002192394 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p 8

["Talk With Live Ammunition" column by Ahmad Sabri]

[Text] Last Saturday, the U.S. Senate passed a bill banning arms sales to Arab states that are committed to the boycott of "Israel."

This legislation, which is expected to be approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. President Clinton, will ban arms sales and the offer of any U.S. military services or advice to any Arab state that tries to convince U.S. companies to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel.

This U.S. bill is the latest in a series of measures that seek to eventually end the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity and to intimidate states and companies that comply with this boycott.

Republican Senator Hank Brown claims the continued Arab boycott of this entity harms the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. However, the contrary is true. This is because the new U.S. legislation is designed to protect Israel against the effects of this boycott and shows full bias toward this entity. It encourages the Zionist entity to persist in rejecting UN Security Council resolutions and continuing the policy of settlement building, repression, and torture against our people in occupied Palestine.

The Arab economic boycott of the enemy was and still is a necessary measure to protect pan-Arab security against this entity that was planted by the colonialist West in the heart of our Arab homeland to implement and protect the West's policies and to act as its racist, aggressive base against our Arab nation.

Any talk about ending the boycott of Israeli harms the Arab nation's vital interests. Its danger stems from the fact that it will lead to relinquishing and ceding the pan-Arab constants governing the conflict with the Zionist entity.

Therefore, the U.S. legislation and insistence on passing it in the wake of Arab concessions in the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict ultimately aims at shattering these constants, represented by the boycott and its pan-Arab justifications, in a bid to impose capitulation on the Arab nation in accordance with racist Zionist concepts.

Despite the attempts by the United States and its "Israeli" ally to expand the circle of capitulation and to expedite the political settlement process, all signs indicate that failure and a dead end is awaiting them because of the arrogance of the racist Zionists and the encouragement of the United states, which cares about nothing but its interests. Any talk about a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace to restore Arab rights and territories is nothing but an illusion, something which is being proved by events.

As shown by the epic of the Mother of Battles and its great objectives, the Arab nation's only option is to stick to pan-Arab constants, the unity of their destiny, rejection of foreign hegemony, refusal to yield to intimidation and the policy of imposing the status quo, resisting all forms of extortion and containment, and insisting on self-reliance to epitomize the Arab nation's unity and protect its pan-Arab security against any penetration.

What has been taking place in Iraq since its militant confrontation against the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist military aggression and the subsequent hostile chapters genuinely expresses the Arab nation's spirit rejecting capitulation and aspiring for a prosperous future. The outcome of the Mother of Battles has begun to concern those seeking to impose custodianship on our nation and to implant despair in our souls. Therefore, they are anxiously attempting to contain this light coming out from the land of Mesopotamia to reach all the free ones in our nation and the world.

Saddam's Son-in-Law Hospitalized in Jordan

NC1202183194 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Amman, Feb 12 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's powerful son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, has been hospitalised here, medical officials said Saturday.

The opposition Iraqi National Congress said that Husayn Kamil, 36, was undergoing emergency treatment for a brain tumour.

Medical officials would not divulge what was wrong with him, but confirmed he had been admitted to hospital.

He holds the title "special advisor to the president" with the rank of minister, and reports directly to Saddam.

He was minister of defence, and took over at the industry ministry last September. He is head of the Military Industrial Organisation, a key post overseeing arms production, and is one of the most powerful men in the Iraqi government.

Despite his relatively youth, he was regarded as the father of Iraq's chemical, bacteriological, ballistics and nuclear weapons programmes, which have been destroyed under UN resolutions following the Gulf war three years ago.

He is married to Saddam's eldest daughter, Raghad.

Antiregime Leaflets Distributed in Mosul

NC1102195794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] A report from Mosul says that hundreds of antiregime leaflets have been distributed by the heroes of the Islamic resistance inside the city and on the roads leading to it.

The report says that the leaflets denounced tyrant Saddam's continued control of the ruling process and his execution of the officers who took part or were suspected of taking part in the coup attempt. The leaflets also urged the citizens to boycott the ruling regime, declare disobedience, refuse to carry out orders, and avoid joining the unfair ruling party. They threatened further armed operations against the regime's henchmen, associates, and institutions.

Regime Reportedly Arrests, Executes 20 Officers

NC1102195594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] As part of the campaign to liquidate the officers who took part in the coup attempt in Tikrit in late July, 20 senior officers in the Republican Guards were recently expelled and arrested. Some of these were even executed by the guards' intelligence organ, our sources in Baghdad said.

The families of the executed officers were notified by the authorities. However, the bodies were not handed over to them. Meanwhile, the authorities warned the families against publicizing the issue or holding memorial ceremonies for the deceased.

Panic prevailed among the Republican Guards as a result of this campaign. Many officers and soldiers escaped for fear of liquidation.

Al-Rashid, al-Rafidayn Banks To Handle Dollar Exchange

JN1102111894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] Baghdad—Over the next few days, the al-Rashid and al-Rafidayn Banks will begin pumping dollars into the market to create a balance between supply and demand, to lower the price of the dollar against the Iraqi dinar, and to effect stable food prices. A responsible source told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the coming phase will witness further measures to bolster the value of the Iraqi dinar in the market and ensure that the speculators and parasites who have caused the rise in the dollar exchange rates are wiped out.

The source said that citizens are allowed to own dollars provided the buying and selling of dollars is confined to money changing offices and the al-Rashid and al-Rafidayn Banks in order to facilitate the process of money changing and protect the citizens against speculators. He noted that the State has allowed citizens to bring in any amount of foreign currency and that it has given them the opportunity to buy it from, or sell it to, designated parties, or, alternatively, it has given them the chance to invest it in the country.

The banking source said that the dollar exchange rate has nothing to do with Western media lies and rumors, which are circulated by the mean speculators in the local markets.

Yesterday, the dollar exchange rate was fixed at companies authorized to sell or buy currencies and at the branches of the al- Rashid and al-Rafidayn Banks. Al-Rashid Bank has designated six branches in Baghdad and the governorates to buy and sell foreign currency in accordance with the exchange rate and as of 5 February. These branches are: al-Shurjah, Jamilah, al-Sa'dun, and al-Mansur central market, as well as in the Ninawa and al-Basrah Governorates.

The Central Bank has also authorized al-Rafidayn Bank branches in al-Harithiyah, Karradat Mariyam, and al-Kifah, and its main branch, as well as the Bank's branches in al-Basrah and Ninawa to begin the buying and selling operation as of 5 February.

Official Comments on Procedures

JN1102123594 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p 2

[Text] Dahham 'Abd-al-Rashid, head of the Financial Control Bureau, has said the decision to limit dealing in foreign currencies to officially licensed companies and banks is the most important step toward controlling speculation in the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar. He stressed, however, that the decision came late.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, 'Abd-al-Rashid said: Most countries in the world, if not all, have companies and offices that deal with foreign currencies in a regular way and are subject to the control and supervision of the competent authorities. It is difficult to predict the extent of the success that will come from applying this decision, which every citizen that cares for his people and nation wishes to see. We are certain that the experience and insight of leaders of the competent state agencies will ensure the success of this decision, which will produce positive results for the national economy and for all the parties that have an interest in the decision.

He stressed that the primary indicator of the success of this decision will be the stabilization of the dinar's exchange rate. He explained that the long-term objective of the decision is to improve the exchange rate against foreign currencies so that we can buy more for one Iraqi dinar than we can buy now.

Asked by AL-JUMHURIYAH about the reasons for the sharp fluctuations in the exchange rate, the director of the Financial Control Bureau said the main reason is the deliberate subversive attempts carried out by foreign and domestic parties, who took advantage of the circumstances of the unjust economic blockade and the weak points of the Iraqi economy, which used to rely heavily on oil exports and on importing commodities and services from abroad. These parties, he said, succeeded in bringing about fluctuations in the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies. They have also succeeded in producing price hikes on commodities and services, thus laying a heavy burden on the shoulders of citizens with limited incomes.

He added that the remedy for the current inflation is based on maintaining prices at their current level, or even bringing them down to a lower, constant level, and on long-term action. The action should start now to lower prices to the previous levels in Iraq or to the international levels, as well as keeping the inflation rate below 20 percent, as is the case in advanced industrial countries.

Regarding the price hikes on commodities, Dahham 'Abd-al-Rashid said that they are due to speculation, gambling, rumors, and psychological warfare staged against Iraqi citizens. The main reason for price hikes, he said, is the low supply of commodities compared to the demand and the purchasing power created by the surplus cash liquidity. He said the imbalance between the supply of commodities and the real demand is due to the low output of local products of commodities and services, including the industrial and agricultural products and so forth. The imbalance is also due to the fact that Iraq has lost all of its foreign currency assets and the revenues it used to make out of its oil exports before 2 August 1990. Thus, the country lost the ability to import basic commodities and services needed by its citizens.

Dahham stressed that the solution requires increasing production first, and then organizing the increase in real income to correspond to the increase in production. He explained that Iraq, from the 1970's, should have adopted an organized policy of income and prices. Income is not limited to wages and salaries, he said, but should also include profits and their distribution, whether in individual enterprises or companies. Taxes and other financial and monetary instruments must be used to implement this policy to achieve a balance between prices and incomes and improve their levels to ensure a fair distribution of wealth among the various individuals, groups, and segments of society.

Police Kill 30 Currency Dealers in Raid

NC1302131894 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Amman, Feb 13 (AFP)—Police shot dead around 30 Iraqi foreign currency dealers in central Baghdad during a raid, travellers from Iraq told AFP here Sunday.

The dealers fled to nearby flats on January 24 when they saw the police arriving in the al-Harisiyah area, where they were exchanging money.

The police opened fire, killing about 30 of them, the sources said.

Another 10 dealers surrendered, and were still in jail, they said.

The raid came two days after a warning published in the daily Babil, which blamed the collapse of the Iraqi dinar on street dealers, and called for them to be punished.

The daily is run by President Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy.

The sources said the dollar was changing hands on the black market for 230 dinars the day of the raid, but the rate now was 265 to the dollar.

The official rate is one dinar to 3.2 dollars.

On January 27 the deputy governor of the central bank, 'Asim Muhammad Salih, announced a ban on foreign currency trading by street dealers.

Actions of Saddam's Son in Local, Foreign Trade Noted

NC1102195394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Our sources in Iraqi Kurdistan have obtained reliable information, affirming that Saddam's criminal son 'Udayy is imposing his control on all sources of local and foreign trade in Iraq through a network of merchants directly connected to intelligence organs.

In the past few months, the number of merchants who could deal in the Jordanian markets was specified. The list contained merchants known for their links with Saddam's intelligence organs and 'Udayy himself. The reports add that a large number of wholesalers who supply the Iraqi market with food, clothing, and other consumer goods were excluded and replaced by others who are closely linked to the ruling family.

In another development, the money-changing market in Baghdad was recently the scene of a large-scale arrest campaign. The campaign was launched by the security agencies at 'Udayy's orders. A total of 15 money changers were executed. This led to an increase in the hard currency rates against the Iraqi dinar.

Radio Updates Peace Talks With PLO, Syria

TA1302195694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Peace negotiations will again be in full swing this week. Tomorrow Israel and the Palestinians are to resume talks on the Gaza-Jericho First plan. Tomorrow night, the Israeli delegations to the Washington peace talks are to fly to the American capital for the resumption of those negotiations on Tuesday [15 February].

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Syria has not softened its demand for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. On the Palestinian track, Peres says he continues to oppose a Palestinian state, and prefers a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation.

A senior Foreign Ministry official says PLO Chairman 'Arafat spoke bitterly of Jordan King Husayn in Cairo last week, and there is concern that the establishment of a Palestinian state will bring about a civil war. David Ze'ev reports:

The Israeli officials say the resumption of the negotiations in Taba between Israel and the PLO can be divided into two categories: issues that were agreed upon in principle in Cairo, that must now be finalized; and other matters less dramatic, which nevertheless must be resolved. The Cairo issues that must be worked out in greater detail include the administrative running of border crossings and joint patrols on roads in the area. [passage omitted]

A senior diplomatic official says Israel is inclined to try to ease the pressure on the Palestinians, saying there is no point, for example, in pressing the PLO to abolish the clauses in its charter calling for the destruction of Israel. The senior official said the Palestine National Council, which must take the step, is inoperative, and Chairman 'Arafat certainly does not have a two-thirds majority in the council, as required, to make the changes. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 13 February reports that speaking at the 13 February cabinet meeting, the foreign minister warned that 'Arafat must not be weakened too much, lest we render him unable to control Gaza and Jericho satisfactorily."]

As Israel's teams to the Washington peace talks prepare to set out for the American capital, Foreign Minister Peres has repeated that there will be no progress with Syria as long as Damascus refuses to raise the level of the talks. A high-level Foreign Ministry official says Jerusalem has complained to the Americans that when the Syrians say a comprehensive peace, they really mean a comprehensive price for Israel to pay.

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators were in touch directly in advance of their talks. Chief Israeli negotiator Elyaqim Rubinstein says the scope of those negotiations is widening. In the Foreign Ministry they would not comment on whether Jordan might sign a peace agreement with Israel once a final agreement is reached with the Palestinians on the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

Rabin, Peres, Sarid, Others View Negotiations

TA1302201594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Text] The Israeli coordinator of activities in the territories, Major General Dani Rothschild, told the cabinet today there is indifference among Palestinians over the peace process. They want to see how they will benefit amid economic problems in the Gaza Strip that include high unemployment. A senior government source says Gen. Rothschild spoke of internal strife within Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization—those loyal to the peace process at odds with those who continue to hoard arms.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the PLO negotiators holding talks with Israel on the Gaza-Jericho First plan are personally threatened. They do not have much room to maneuver in making decisions. A senior diplomatic source adds that Palestinian delegates have received death threats. And Minister Yosi Sarid, a member of the Peres team that signed the Cairo security agreement with the PLO last week, said Israel must take into account the duress of the Palestinian negotiators.

Taking into account the recent spate of Palestinian attacks on Israelis, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the question of whether to tighten the closure imposed on the territories last year is to be considered. The police are calling for steps that include limiting the number of Palestinian vehicles allowed to enter Israel from the territories and, once again, raising the minimum age of Palestinians permitted to cross over. Army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, told the cabinet the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has not yet come to the conclusion that the closure should be tightened, or that a complete closure should be imposed. But, he said, the Army is ready to reconsider whether such steps should be taken.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 13 February, in a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, carries a recording of Minister Shim'on Shetrit's remarks to reporters after the 13 February cabinet meeting: "When we discuss the permanent arrangement, we will insist that no separate, independent Palestinian state is to be established."

[Sukenik adds that "Minister Peres' remarks on the need for Israelis to discuss the evacuation of the Netzarim and Dugit settlements despite the agreement which leaves them in place, caused a controversy in the government."]

Rabin on Agreement, Army Involvement in Process

TA1002192794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "granted jointly to both Israeli television channels" by political reporter 'Imanu'el Rosen and Channel 1 party affairs reporter Shlomo Raz in Jerusalem on 10 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Rosen] Sir, you have often complained recently about 'Arafat. You said he should sweat it out in Tunis. And yet in the end, he accepted practically every demand Israel posed in the sphere of security. Has 'Arafat changed in any way?

[Rabin] I am not saying he accepted every demand; we too compromised here and there. I thought there were basic things on which we had to insist, and I am happy that the sides drew closer to each other on that. I do not want the outcome to be presented as if he alone did all the conceding; we did some too.

[Rosen] What concessions did we make?

[Rabin] We ceded on several issues pertaining to the border crossings; several issues pertaining to the right to hold Muslim religious rituals in al-Nabi Musa, for instance; to permit the holding of baptism rituals in the Jordan River three times a year, and in special cases that have to be coordinated with us; even with a flag.

[Raz] Yet last night, before the agreement was signed, you and the military advisers who surrounded you seemed to be wavering, unsure that the agreement should be signed.

[Rabin] Not at all wavering or unsure, rather anxious to do everything to ensure our vital security issues.

Allow me to add something: I have been hearing criticism of the Army involvement. I am simply unable to understand both politicians and media people. I remember when I once said I did not involve the Army in the months-long negotiations—the secret Oslo negotiations which gave us the Declaration of Principles [DOP]—there was an outcry of criticism: How can you keep the Army out of it? That was a matter of principle, a political decision. Now, when the implementation of that agreement is at stake, the implementation of security issues, I see it as my pragmatic As#?V????l duty to involve the Army.

[Rosen] Someone wrote about a putsch this week.

[Rabin] Right. I have never heard baloney worse than that. [passage omitted]

[Raz] I assume a meeting between you and 'Arafat should not be expected in the near future.

[Rabin] I see no reason to attend such a meeting before everything is finalized.

[Rosen] I assume this will not happen before 13 April.

[Rabin] There are no sacred dates. Even the DOP stipulates that the dates are based on the assumption that agreements will be attained. From my point of view, what matters is attaining an agreement that, with all this complexity, stands a chance to succeed.

Rabin Grants Interview on Peace Process

NC1302211394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1935 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Mahir Shalabi in Jerusalem from the Face-to-Face program, in English with superimposed Arabic translation; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, the Clinton-al-Asad summit has given an impetus to the peace opportunities between Syria and Israel. After the summit, you declared that the withdrawals from the Golan would be subjected to a public referendum. Are you not erecting obstacles to the chances for peace with Syria?

[Rabin] No, I don't think so, because I believe that the people of Israel are interested in achieving peace with the Palestinians in the way that we have been pursuing since the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington, and with Syria because of its strategic importance and its influence in what is going on in Lebanon, and in a more limited way with Jordan.

Furthermore, I believe that the Syrian leadership and people need peace. But this is not enough for Israel. The Syrian leadership is responsible for convincing the Israeli Government and people that Syria indeed means peace. I don't expect the Syrian leadership to do the same thing that President al-Sadat did to convince the Israeli people that he wanted peace. No doubt—in my opinion—Al-Sadat's presence in Jerusalem accomplished 80 or 90 percent of the work of former Israeli prime minister Menahem Begin in convincing the Israeli people that Egypt wanted peace. This made it easy for the Israeli Government to pay a high price for peace.

We are involved in negotiations with Syria but they are not being held in the same way that we had our negotiations with Egypt. But at the same time, Syria is not making much of an effort to reduce the terrorist activities of Hizballah against Israel. Therefore, the issue is very important to the people of Israel. I believe that there is democratic life in Israel and that on certain issues the opinions of the people must be taken into account. I did not do that when I signed the Declaration of Principles document with the PLO. I do not intend to do that when the Declaration of Principles Accord is implemented with regard to the Gaza-Jericho First and then regarding the subsequent stage. As for Syria, the issue is much more important.

[Shalabi] How do you expect the Syrian side to carry out confidence-building steps when at the same time you are accusing the Syrians of supporting Hizballah?

[Rabin] I believe that in July, the Lebanese Government was prepared to deploy 3,000 Lebanese troops in south Lebanon, north of the security zone, alongside the South Lebanese Army, to prove that they could prevent terrorism. If, after six month of deployment, the Lebanese Army an prove it is capable of preventing terrorist activities and disarming Hizballah, I am prepared to sign a peace treaty based on the international borders that existed during the British mandate. This treaty would produce security arrangements and would confirm to the Lebanese who cooperate with us in the security zone that they will not be harmed and that no actions will be taken against them beyond those taken against the other militias, which were disarmed by the Lebanese Government over the past one and a half years. Therefore, there is no reason not to have peace with Lebanon.

[Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, the recent incidents in Lebanon have led to calls by the Israeli right to launch a large-scale attack against the Hizballah. What is your opinion on this?

[Rabin] I do not want to specify what kind of military operations we will conduct in the future. I think that the method and policy I pursued when I served as defense minister in the National Unity Government in 1985 are the same today. A new war in Lebanon will lead to nowhere. At the same time, we will maintain freedom of military activities whenever and wherever we find it necessary against Hizballah targets all over Lebanon.

[Shalabi] So, do you expect the situation to remain the same in southern Lebanon until a settlement is reached with Syria?

[Rabin] I believe that a solution to the problem between Lebanon and Israel is a peace agreement when the Lebanese Government, with the support of Syria, is able to prove that it is in full in control of all Lebanese sovereign areas. As I said before, let the test be six months from the time the Lebanese forces have deployed and have taken action against Hizballah and show that they are capable of doing that. Once they have proven that, you know that there is no territorial problem between Israel and Lebanon. We do not want an inch of the sovereign soil of Lebanon. We do not want one cubic meter of it. All what we want is peace and security, and to give the option to the Lebanese Government to prove its ability to control its sovereign soil and prevent the use of its territory as a springboard for attacks against Israel. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] There are reports of a decision to release about 2,000 Palestinian detainees. Is this true?

[Rabin] No. We made it clear that the release of the prisoners and the detainees, particularly the detainees, will take place together with the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, after they are separated in groups. There are groups of Palestinian prisoners who have killed Israelis, and I do not think that they will be released. Furthermore, we have our own demands to make of the Palestinians. For example, we have three soldiers who have been missing since the June 1982 war who were killed [as heard] in a clash with a Palestinian force under Syrian command. We expect the PLO to indicate their whereabouts and whether they are alive or not. We need cooperation on the part of the Palestinians. The demand cannot be one-sided. We want a responsible position from the Palestinian side regarding the missing.

[Shalabi] Regarding this particular point, there are reports about hundreds of Palestinians missing since 1967 who are being held in Israeli prisons. Is there any truth in that?

[Rabin] We cannot keep anyone in any Israeli prison without announcing it; our laws demand this. Anyone who violates these laws will be brought to trial.

[Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, after the Madrid conference, everybody has been talking about a new Middle East. How do you see it from your standpoint?

[Rabin] I hope that once we reach an agreement with the three neighboring states—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—in addition to the peace with Egypt—the 15th anniversary of which we are celebrating these days—and the start of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians, there will be a better chance to check the activities of the extremist Islamic groups that are threatening the moderate regimes in the Arab world. This will lead to a new Middle East and a better climate for cooperation among the countries and peoples of the area for the benefit and progress of all the peoples and the countries of this area.

[Shalabi] Thank you very much.

Rabin Comments on Attacks, Security, Other Issues

TA1102061994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that following the news of the two attacks, the Islamic Jihad is the leading terror organization operating in the territories. Rabin spoke at Labor Party headquarters last night. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Prime Minister Rabin says the attacks on Israelis are painful. He says they highlight the need to begin implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians. Speaking to the Labor Party Bureau in Tel Aviv, Rabin said Israel must fight hard against those who seek to derail the peace process. He said Israel is determined to see the agreement through despite the violence. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said following the Bureau meeting that the new security arrangement with the Palestinians will make such attacks more difficult for those who oppose the peace process.

[Shahal] We expect that the Palestinians will prevent any kind of terror acts or violence of any kind against Israeli civilians. For that matter, we are going to have all of the responsibility on their shoulders and this is their obligation. We are realistic enough to know that there are those who oppose the peace process and probably they will try to sabotage the peace process by terror acts against civilians: Israelis and maybe even Palestinians. But the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho will be responsible to prevent those actions.

[Gur-Arye] Prime Minister Rabin said at the Bureau meeting that the Islamic Jihad is the leading terror organization in the territories. He said it would take at least a month to reach agreement on outstanding issues with the Palestinians. He ruled out meeting with Yasir 'Arafat before all the issues are resolved. Rabin said Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had coordinated all his moves with him on the phone from Cairo. He criticized Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin for promising that the government would resign if the public rejects an agreement with Syria in a national referendum. Prime Minister Rabin said Beilin had no authority to make such a promise. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 February in a page 1 report on the Labor Party Bureau meeting by Sarah Honig adds that Prime Minister Rabin adds: "Arab terrorism will not be controlled without help from the Palestinian police." THE JERUSALEM POST writes that "Rabin noted that Israel could not eradicate terror when it controlled the territories. 'Perhaps what we need is a partner to help us towards that end. When the Palestinians have self-rule and deploy their own police force, they will have their own interest in putting an end to terrorist acts perpetrated by their own people.

["'They will have something to lose if they do not exert control. They will have an enormous stake in securing the peace. If they fail and the bloodletting continue, they know they will not arrive at their destination and will not get what they wish to achieve beyond Gaza and Jericho,' Rabin said."]

Labor's Zvili on Palestinian State, Return of Golan

TA1202073694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Labor's Secretary General Nisim Zvili says that a Palestinian state will emerge in the territories at the end of the peace process and the Golan Heights will be returned to Syria. Zvili adds that Israel has a framework agreement signed with King Husayn, and when it is publicized, people will find the security arrangements achieved for the border crossings surprising. Nisim Zvili spoke before Hashomer Hatza'ir [youth movement affiliated with MAPAM, the United Workers Party, a Meretz component] council at Ma'ale Habesor in the western Negev yesterday.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Hashomer Hatza'ir leaders decided to convene their council near the Gaza Strip border in order to emphasize the main topic of their discussion: a call on the Palestinian youth to establish a peace camp and to struggle against the extremists.

Zvili's, Peres' Remarks Trigger Reaction

TA1202130694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili says at the end of the peace process a Palestinian state will be established in the territories and the Golan will be returned to Syria. [passage omitted]

The Tzomet faction is demanding that the prime minister make it clear whether Zvili's remarks were made with Rabin's knowledge. Tzomet said Rabin had made a commitment that a Palestinian state would not be established, and that not all of the Golan would be handed back. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that if Zvili's remarks were correct, then the State of Israel's days were numbered, and the countdown had started.

Likud Bureau chairman, Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, said after two years of misleading the public and deception, Nisim Zvili had finally spoken the truth on the prime minister's secret intentions. The Likud demanded that Rabin immediately submit to the Knesset the agreements formulated with Jordan and the draft accords with the Syrians.

The head of the Golan settlements committee, Eli Malka, said Zvili's remarks were a scandal and deceive the public. If the Labor Party had decided to hand over the Golan, what was the purpose of negotiations? And, if that was the Labor Party's position, he demanded an immediate referendum.

On another matter, Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban told the Hashomer Hatza'ir council that residents of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip are making it difficult for the Army to carry out its duties, and their behavior requires a sharp reaction. The residents are demanding security for places that should never have been set up, but refuse to rent empty buildings.

Foreign Minister Peres said one should ask out loud what is the point of keeping Netzarim where there are only 28 families and a company of soldiers had to defend them. The chairman of Netzarim's secretariat, Shlomo Kostina, said Peres' remarks disclosed his intentions regarding settlement in the Golan, the Jordan Valley, and Judaea and Samaria. He invited Peres to visit Netzarim now and in 10 years time.

Rabin Affirms Stance on Palestinian State, Comments

State 'Will Not Come Into Being'

TA1202[illegible]1894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin informed Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, that he adheres to his position that a Palestinian state will not come into being between Israel and Jordan. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Rabin was replying to Qatzav's request to support a motion to be submitted by the Likud this coming week, requesting that the Knesset pass a resolution stating that a Palestinian state will not come into being.

Notes 'Palestinian Entity'

TA1002173294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that although terror hurts, we must once and for all solve the conflict. The weapon of terror is in the hands of those who oppose us. Today, we are in control of the territories, yet we are unable to foil terrorism. If our partner realizes that security is important to us, and if he understands that he will not attain his goals as long as there is no full security, he will have an interest in seeing to it that security is realized.

Mr. Rabin further said that he recognizes the existence of a Palestinian entity, but distinguishes between it and a state. The Palestinians will have their flag and other symbols, such as a police force. They are entitled to have symbols, Rabin told the Labor Party Bureau in Tel Aviv today.

Denies Zvili's Remarks Reflect Stance

TA1202201194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he was astonished at the remarks of Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili, and said the two issues Zvili mentioned—a Palestinian state and the future of the Golan—contradict the resolutions of the Labor Party convention and certainly do not reflect its positions.

This evening, Zvili denied having said that he is in favor of a Palestinian state. He nevertheless added that he foresees the emergence of a Palestinian state at the end of a long process, although this is a bad solution and Labor opposes it. Zvili added that he foresees Israel ultimately recognizing Syria's sovereignty over the Golan. Referring to an agreement with Jordan, he said that although it has been finalized he does not expect the Jordanian monarch to publicize it any time soon.

Paper Notes Rabin-Husayn Meeting After Oslo Accord

TA1302122094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn conferred secretly shortly after the signing of the Oslo agreement, either in the 'Arava or the Gulf of Elat.

Diplomatic sources told our correspondent that Rabin decided to reassure King Husayn, in whom he found signs of panic, following the signing of the Oslo agreements. In the wake of that meeting, Israel began to report regularly to Jordan about the talks with the Palestinians and the two coordinated positions prior to each meeting Israel held with the PLO.

The two leaders discussed the procedures for crossings at the King 'Abdallah Bridge, which the two states are due to begin rebuilding soon. The bridge will link Amman directly with East Jerusalem while bypassing Jericho. Our correspondent notes that there has been a change in the wording of the Israeli-Palestinian security coordinating committee from what was decided in Davos. While in Davos the committee was called "The Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Security," in Cairo the term Israeli-Palestinian was dropped, apparently in order to leave an opening for Jordan to join security coordinating committee in the future.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat yesterday arrived in Amman and reported to King Husayn on the Cairo talks after Husayn twice voiced open criticism of the Palestinian-Jordanian Coordinating Committee on Security Affairs.

Peres 'Seems Quite Pessimistic' About Syrian Track

TA1302173494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was asked a few minutes ago to comment on his proposal to Syria to engage in talks on more than one track and on the Syrian rejection of this proposal. Peres said there is no indication that Syria has softened its demands from Israel. Peres seems quite pessimistic concerning the prospects of advancing the negotiations with Syria. He said their acceptance of his suggestion to expand the Syrian-Israeli negotiations to several tracks would have indicated that they seriously meant to promote the peace process. For Peres, their rejection of his proposal was another unfavorable sign of Syria's intentions.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 13 February cites Peres as saying that "Israel prefers a confederation between the Palestinian entity and

Jordan. If such a confederation is not established, conflicts may arise between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, entangling Israel."]

Peres on PLO Agreement, Syria, Jordan Talks

TA1202112494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on 11 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Mr. Foreign Minister, you concluded security issues in Cairo which should lead to more security and calm, yet this past week we witnessed two more murders, a renewed wave of terror.

[Peres] One must not forget, the negotiations as well as the agreement are still only on paper, they are not reality. The Palestinians do not have a police force, nor responsibility. Responsibility is still 100 percent ours. Therefore, they cannot be expected to do what they cannot. Things will hopefully change in the future, but we will have to go through a difficult period still. 'Arafat told me he clearly understands that if anything happens in Gaza—God forbid—all fingers, the Israelis, the Europeans, and the Americans, will be pointed at him. He said he surely understands that establishing peace is in their supreme interest.

[Raz] Still, the last two murders took place inside Israel.

[Peres] Yes, but we know who perpetrated them. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—not the PLO—did this. Murder occurs in Arab countries too; fundamentalists exist there too. I believe that when the agreement is translated into reality, we will feel the change on the ground.

[Raz] When will the agreement turn into reality indeed? The talks in Taba and Paris are slated to resume next week, I understand, and this is another stage on the way toward implementation.

[Peres] Numerically speaking, we overcame only some of the problems. Qualitatively, we surmounted most of the difficult problems, although we are facing additional difficult problems still. I must tell you though, that there were moments during these talks that I doubted we would overcome. The gaps are so big. I am referring to gaps in formulation, in views, and even more so, in feelings.

[Raz] How did you manage to overcome problems then? Who gave or caved in?

[Peres] This is not a matter of caving in. It is not a give-and-take type of negotiation. You know, many ask me what we received. From Israel's viewpoint, we first and foremost negotiate with ourselves rather than with the Palestinians. The Likud acted wisely: It conducted negotiations with itself; it did not give up anything. The disadvantage is that this cannot lead to any results; rather, this can result in greater enmity and hatred, greater danger and number of casualties involved. Where does this unforgettable genius lead?

[Raz] Still, what are the weaknesses in the agreement you worked out in Cairo?

[Peres] You know, we initially said we would give the Palestinians honor and they would give us security, or rather, agree on security issues, but the truth is that what we call security they call honor, and what they term honor we think of as security. For example, will the Palestinian policemen stationed in the border terminal be armed with pistols or not? Can you conceive of a policeman without a pistol? A policeman needs weapons for self- defense in case an armed person enters or in case somebody runs wild. This is a simple example of a problem that caused hardship.

[Raz] They will have pistols after all, I believe.

[Peres] Yes. Reference is to up to 10 policemen.

[Raz] So, is it because of 10 armed policemen that the defense establishment had so many reservations, according to several reports?

[Peres] Do not lead me into this kind of false drama. There is a military echelon which should give military advice. This is its duty and I have no complaints about this. Just as doctors give medical counseling, the Army counsels on security issues and should insist on this, and so should the politicians, for their part, insist on what is politically necessary. I have no complaints about this.

Doubts arise though. The whole issue of crossing the border terminal for instance. They say we are giving them autonomy rather than independence, but when a Jericho resident arrives at the terminal, what does autonomy mean to him?—Let him be welcomed by a Palestinian policeman with a Palestinian flag. We said no, we want to check everyone who goes through. You can ask why there is an argument over a policeman. The argument is not over a policeman but over a sea of feelings, of anxieties, suspicions, and hopes, and with correct phrasing you can sometimes surmount problems.

[Raz] Who guarantees, Mr. Peres, that these formulations will pass the test of reality? Your experience shows that 'Arafat went back on agreements at the very last minute?

[Peres] Who can guarantee there will be no war, or anything else for that matter? Gambling or risks is the name of the game wherever you turn. You may bring about war, but then you may also bring about peace. There are no absolute guarantees, rather absolute choices. If you ask me, the Palestinians are dead tired of the current situation. I noticed the great distress, the numerous internal struggles they have constantly experienced regarding the negotiations. They too are facing an opposition. The difference is that ours is usually

expressed in no-confidence motions, while theirs is manifest in shooting to kill. A death threat is hovering over almost every person who sat to the negotiations table with us.

[Raz] What request or demand by the Palestinians we could not accept?

[Peres] For instance, a demand that we shoulder joint rather than full responsibility for the border, the terminals, and the roads which connect the settlements to Israel. They told us: Do you think we do not want to fight murderers? Our answer was: Although it is true that we cannot guarantee the safety of our people 100 percent even when we are fully in charge of security, still, when something happens God forbid, nobody would doubt that we made our best efforts to prevent this. We told them: Imagine that we share responsibility, that you and we, each share 50 percent responsibility, and a fatal incident occurs, everyone will then say it is because of you that we do not have full security.

As for the three roads, the Palestinians told us: Is it for a single settlement, with 28 families, that you want to control a 5-km long road, to have the right to absolute responsibility over this road and the areas alongside it?

[Raz] You are referring to the settlement of Netzarim, I understand.

[Peres] I am talking of two roads which branch off from the Qatif Bloc, one southward, south-east, and the other northward, north-east, as well as a road to Netzarim. The Palestinians say: We have villages and traffic too, after all, while you want 5 km for 28 families; you have to be logical too as to what you are doing. I am giving the other side's contention. You know, sitting at home and negotiating with yourself is very simple, but here you sit opposite the other side and want to reach an agreement with it rather than to imposing an agreement. There were moments when they simply said they could not go back to their people with what was raised. Well, if it is impossible, it is impossible.

[Raz] This may be a hypothetical question, but would you support the evacuation of any settlements in the Gaza Strip?

[Peres] Not under the pressure of negotiations. I believe the Likud established a terrible precedent with regard to the Sinai. Those who criticize us about the settlements today are those who forcefully evacuated the settlers from the Sinai at the time! To tell you the truth, I have questions which should be asked out loud indeed: What is the sense in keeping a settlement of 28 families that need laborers from Thailand, that need a military company to defend them, and whose road should always be protected? Where are the bounds of logic here? Have we not effected cuts in the Israel Aircraft Industries and REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority]? Are these not cuts in the defense sphere? We went to maximum extremes here from the economic and security viewpoints. I heard one of the settlements' residents say that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would not have stayed in the area had it not been for them. Well, what does the Army need to do there? The moment we decided the IDF will not be Gaza's policeman, then....

[Raz, interrupting] I would like to go beyond the Palestinian issue. How does this agreement you consolidated in Cairo influence other tracks of the negotiations, the talks with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon?

[Peres] First, this agreement surely impressed the world. Why? This was because we overcame very complex problems, involving historic, mental, and territorial disagreements, without guns firing, without war threats, without planes. As for the Syrians, if they do not expand the negotiation, if they maintain them on a narrow path, we will face only difficulties, I believe. We have a very talented representative, our ambassador in Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, who knows the subject matter and how to conduct negotiations. He is a very serious, able person, but he will not be able to make progress on this narrow path.

[Raz] Are you alluding to the necessity of having a summit meeting with al-Asad?

[Peres] Yes, but in general, the negotiations should be expanded. In my opinion, it is desirable to have a meeting between al-Asad and Rabin, and the negotiations should then move into the political plane. Look how matters proceeded with Egypt. The negotiations cannot remain so controlled and restricted to such a narrow channel. [laughingly] We need a second channel [referring to New Israel Television Channel 2]

[Raz] How about Jordan?

[Peres] As for Jordan, the Jordanians have taken steps. The king's statement is important, in my opinion. I think that he admitted that there were secret meetings first. In other words, he paved the road for open meetings in the future. He said....

[Raz, interrupting] Is a date emerging for an open meeting already?

[Peres] Not yet, not yet. The point about the Jordanians is that they are saying the correct things now. We did succeed in one thing: We stopped the secrecy. I told the Jordanians: Is peace an underground matter? Why are you complaining about leaks on our side? We dislike that you want to conceal this in the first place? What do you mean by this? So now, the Jordanians came out with matters openly. I am also happy that the king spoke of the economic issue. Incidentally, 'Arafat too began to discuss economics with me. I think he even quoted from a book I wrote, but then he may have wanted to please me, who knows?

[Raz] There is another question I must ask you. Do you too think that the government will have to resign if a referendum is held and the government does not win a majority?

[Peres] I think it will win a majority. I cannot conceive of anything else. If we succeed in the negotiations, the majority will support us. If we fail, we will need to be thrown out anyway. A government is elected every four years rather than four days since a government which cannot be unpopular does not deserve to rule. The four years are granted so that the government can also adopt unpopular measures in order to achieve popular goals, for otherwise, nothing will be gained.

[Raz] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Baraq Views Cairo Agreement With PLO

TA1102205094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq by Dan Scemama "this afternoon in the television studios"—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Scemama] We open the interview with the chief of staff with a question about the realities of the last 24 hours. Since the signing of the agreement in Cairo, Naftali Sahar and Ilan Sudri have been murdered by terrorists.

[Baraq] We must look reality in the eye. In view of the fact that thousands of Palestinians have employee-employer, buyer-seller, or service supplier-receiver relationships within the boundaries of Israel, no police force, security service, or army can technically prevent the physical ability to raise a knife. We will do our best to have good control, and I am sure that the Israel Police and the Shin Bet will do their utmost. Ultimately, nevertheless, some of the responsibility lies with the Israeli people.

Today, we are still responsible for providing a livelihood and jobs to the inhabitants of Gaza. That is why we must allow them to enter Israel. I hope not to get into a situation where in the wake of similar incidents we are forced to close off Gaza. Conditions will change once an agreement is reached. In my opinion, if workers from Gaza murder Israelis within the boundaries of Israel, they may very well not be allowed to come in.

[Scemama] Are you saying that this could be a sanction? Will we simply bar workers from entering Israel?

[Baraq] I am stating my opinion. At the moment, we as a state are responsible for them and we must provide them jobs. If and when an agreement is reached and they become the responsibility of the Palestinian authority—if some of them take advantage of the right to work in Israel to murder their employers or the right to travel by taxi to murder its driver—it is my assessment that this could lead us to the conclusion that such a situation can no longer go on. In my opinion, the very realization that such a possibility exists will make them have second thoughts and, perhaps, reduce such incidents. Otherwise, we will have to make some decisions.

[Scemama] How about Israelis who live in settlements in Gaza or Israelis driving in the Gaza Strip? Does this agreement satisfy you? In your view, can this agreement provide security for Israelis traveling on the roads or living in the Gaza Strip?

[Baraq] A great deal was achieved in the agreement. On the other hand, many points remain to be worked out—and I suppose will be worked out within the next few weeks in Taba and in Cairo—before we can sign the final agreement for implementation. A great deal was achieved in that the settlements are recognized as one bloc surrounded by a security circle rather than individually. The agreement recognizes our responsibility for Israeli traffic on the roads, including the right to carry out independent Israeli action on the roads and in their immediate proximity. And, of course, it recognizes our responsibility for external security. These three points, which were recognized in principle by the Palestinians, must now be translated into particulars for implementation.

[Scemama] Sir, today there are undercover units, Shin Bet, IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and Border Police troops in the midst of Arab population centers. What will prevent an Arab terrorist from setting out from Khan Yunus, approaching a settlement fence, opening fire, and hurting people, then fleeing back to this Arab town?

[Baraq] Within a radius of several hundred meters from a settlement—that is, within a distance from which he can effectively open fire at the settlement—he will come up against the IDF which will be in charge of security. Outside this radius, in the area controlled by the Palestinians, we expect the Palestinian police force to act effectively long before terror attacks and long after terror attacks where the perpetrators are not killed or wounded in the course of the attack.

[Scemama] Can we place our confidence in such a future Palestinian police force?

[Baraq] The agreement we are working on is largely based on a strong and effective Palestinian police force which would cooperate with us. If they fail this test, we will have to reach conclusions about the agreement itself and about extending it to the rest of Judaea and Samaria later on. I think they will have a strong incentive to meet these conditions but, if they do not, we will have to reach some conclusions.

[Scemama] Sir, in the course of the political negotiations, did you propose to evacuate certain settlements, such as Netzarim, from the Qatif Bloc, in order to overcome some security problem?

[Baraq] We did not make such a proposal and we are not even supposed to adopt a position on any of the issues

that were decided on by the government. The government made a decision, which it put into writing and signed in the DOP [Declaration of Principles], to the effect that no settlement will be relocated at this stage. That is why no settlement, including Netzarim with its 27 or 28 families, is being relocated....

[Scemama, interrupting] There have been reports about such a recommendation by military elements.

[Baraq, continuing] ....Or smaller locations. We are not evacuating any place and there certainly was not and could not be such a recommendation by the military.

[Scemama] Do you estimate that the IDF will evacuate Gaza and Jericho by 13 April? When will the withdrawal actually start now that the agreement has been signed?

[Baraq] This is not the agreement which had originally been scheduled to be signed on 13 December. This agreement elaborates in greater detail on the issues I mentioned earlier and passes the torch to the working teams which will now have to sit for weeks—maybe three or six week, I do not know exactly; it depends on the responsiveness of the other side—and work out a detailed agreement for implementation. Only when we get such an agreement will we be able to assess when its implementation will be completed.

[Scemama] How long will it take to withdraw from these areas the moment such an agreement is concluded?

[Baraq] In my opinion, the moment an agreement is concluded a withdrawal can be completed within six weeks or perhaps two months. The DOP originally talks about four months from the signing of the agreement. In practice, we do not need so much time. However, we have not yet signed the agreement we will have to implement. This still lies ahead of us and calls for a lot of work.

[Scemama] Gen. Baraq, after the first Oslo agreement senior military sources whose identity I do not know said the Army was not let in on the negotiations and criticized this fact. Now there is harsh criticism about the excessive involvement in the political negotiations of officers dressed up in suits and ties. You must probably be aware of this criticism.

[Baraq] In both cases the criticism did not come from within the ranks of the Army. We think the decision not to let the Army in on the details of the negotiations about the Oslo agreement was right. It is not that I or the chief of intelligence did not know that an agreement was in the works or about some of its contents. The prime minister and the foreign minister did the right thing by refraining from sharing with us what clearly are political decisions about which there is a deep and legitimate argument within Israeli society.

On the other hand, it becomes vital to include security officials the moment the agreement must be put into practice and discussions begin about security arrangements along the roads, the security circles around the settlements, joint patrols, the role of the Palestinian police force, and the activities of our forces. After all, when all is said and done, we are the ones who will have to move to the other side of the table and proceed to implement it the day after the agreement is signed. Our platoon commander must know what his duties are, what he can and cannot do; the Palestinian policeman and the Israeli settler who is being given protection must know what to do, and I believe the Israeli public also must know. [passage omitted]

Defense Official: Israel Obtained 'Everything' Wanted

NC1002152294 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 10 (AFP)—Israel obtained everything it wanted from the security deal agreed with the Palestinians in Cairo, Defence Ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami [spelling as received] said 10 February.

"The very fact of reaching an agreement is in itself positive," he told AFP. "That shows that we got what we wanted."

The Ma'ariv newspaper headlined: "Security top brass happy, 'All our main demands have been accepted'."

The daily quoted triumphant security officials congratulating themselves on the pact signed by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Wednesday [9 February] night.

Israel keeps control of the border and crossing points, Jewish settlements and roads leading to them for the five-year interim period of autonomy.

Ben Ami said Israeli and Palestinian delegations would next week resume talks on the military, civilian and economic aspects of autonomy, in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba and in Paris, in a bid to seal an overall agreement to launch self-rule.

"We are now going to try to put into practice the principles expressed and signed in Cairo. A lot of questions remain to be answered," Ben Ami said.

IDF Said 'Satisfied' With Cairo Agreement

TA1102121594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Feb 94 p A3

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff is satisfied with the Cairo agreement signed between the PLO and Israel on 9 February. A military source yesterday said that "under the present circumstances, it is the best agreement." The source asserted that both sides had conceded on points they would not have compromised on in the past, and the General Staff feels this is the best possible agreement.

Senior IDF sources said that the test would be the implementation of the agreement. According to a military source, the IDF has reacted positively to the agreement, but many details have yet to be worked out and many difficulties are to be expected before the agreement can be implemented.

IDF sources stressed that the Cairo agreement is being perused in detail by top military officials and every detail is being examined from a professional standpoint. A senior IDF source said: "in general, it is a good agreement. Most of our interests have been protected, especially the security interest."

According to the senior source, several issues still remain unresolved even after the agreement, such as the matter of the Palestinian police and the way security measures will be handled at the border crossings.

IDF sources state, for example, that the procedures for crossing the Palestinian checkpoint remain unclear. According to the agreement, passengers crossing through the Palestinian checkpoint will walk through a magnetic gate. An Israeli and Palestinian guard will stand on each side of the gate, and in any suspicious case will be permitted to carry out a body search at the gate and to question the traveler. The IDF anticipates the possibility of problems and confrontations at the terminal, with each side demanding to check travelers.

The IDF is still studying the Cairo agreement and will establish staff teams over the next few days to analyze the agreements and implement them on the ground. Officers at the Central and Southern Commands are prepared to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho as soon as the political echelon issues the order. As reported by HA'ARETZ, the General Staff has formulated a plan that will enable the troops to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho within one month.

Source Asserts IDF Ready To Withdraw Within 1 Month

TA1102122694 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] A senior military source attached to the Southern Command yesterday said: "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is deployed and ready to withdraw from the major population centers in the Gaza Strip and move to the blocs of Jewish settlements. The IDF will be capable of carrying out such an operation within one month." The source asserted that the preparations for the dismantling and evacuation of the military bases were mostly over while the preparations for the construction of alternative bases inside the blocs of settlements were at an advance stage.

The senior military source added that the Southern Command and the General Staff's Logistic's Branch have been making preparations for a withdrawal over the past few months, while gearing themselves up to complete the evacuation process by mid-April 1994, as stipulated by the Document of Principles. The evacuation process was scheduled to start at the beginning of March and end in mid-April. "We can withdraw within one month and if necessary we can do it in even less time," the source said, noting that "obviously, the date will be decided by the political echelon. Therefore, one month for evacuation is sufficient time as far as we are concerned. We have carried out more difficult things before."

The IDF will summon hundreds of drivers for reserve duty to help carry out the withdrawal. Some of the drivers have already received calls to report to reserve duty. These drivers will help transfer the equipment and the structures in trucks and transporters from the IDF bases inside Palestinian population centers in the Gaza Strip. "Everything that is supposed to be transferred is already marked, noted down in the catalogue, and anchored in detailed evacuation plans," the source noted. "In most cases, all we have to do is to load the equipment on the truck or transporter and start driving."

IDF's 'Operation Rainbow' Detailed

NC1102131994 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Israeli names as received]

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 11 (AFP)—Operation Rainbow, the Israeli Army's plan to withdraw on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, is ready following the Cairo security agreement for Palestinian autonomy, officers say.

"As soon as the government gives the order, we will start the withdrawal," a military spokesman told AFP, but he refused to go into detail.

"We are wound up and ready to go into action," one senior officer told Friday's [11 February] YEDI'OT AHARANOT newspaper.

Military officials said planning is complete for the operation which will see troops pulled out of Jericho and redeployed in Gaza. Army bases will be dismantled and moved from built-up areas on the strip where Israeli forces will remain to protect the 4,000 Jewish settlers.

Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq has already appointed the appropriately named General Hagai Shalom, a logistics specialist, to carry out Operation Rainbow.

The Army has asked the government for another 100 million dollars on top of 83 million already allocated for the withdrawal.

More than 50 million dollars is being spent to build a 60-kilometre (36-mile) fence around the Gaza Strip. A seven kilometre stretch has already been completed.

The fence, the same as one put up along the border between Israel and Lebanon, is intended to prevent infiltrations. The system includes electronic gates and continuous patrols.

Southern region command will oversee the operation on the Gaza Strip and the Central Region Command will take care of Jericho.

As soon as the orders are received, Army bulldozers and trucks will move to take down the razor fences, the watchtowers, observation posts, water and fuel storage facilities and so on which clutter the landscape of the occupied territories.

All the equipment removed will be stored in temporary camps while new installations are built. Soldiers from combat units will have to sleep in tents until new barracks are constructed. Water pipes, drains and electrical systems will be destroyed.

Palestinians have watched with great pleasure the first moves with the Army quitting several posts in Gaza in recent weeks and the departure of the hated occupier from the refugee camps is expected to produce an outpouring of emotion.

According to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres Israel will strive to pull troops out without further delay,

"We are not committed to the April 13 deadline," Peres said referring to the target date for Israel to complete the withdrawal under the September 13 agreement.

"However I think we will all make a real effort to reduce the delay because our people also wants to be convinced that the agreement is workable."

The start of the pullout, scheduled for December 13 under the agreement, has been held up by disputes centered on the security aspects of autonomy.

Israel and the PLO settled most of the differences in Cairo on Wednesday night, although Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is insisting all outstanding issues on autonomy, including economic, be resolved before the withdrawal begins.

Rabin said he expected that to take at least another month while senior Army officers said it would take only one month for the withdrawal to be completed.

'Sources' Deny 'Beefed Up' IDF in South Lebanon

TA1002181194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Responding to reports from Syria and Lebanon alleging that the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]] is reinforcing its troops, a senior military source says that the IDF has not beefed up its forces in the security zone in Lebanon. Speaking to our reporter Yo'av Aviv, the source said that the reports came in the wake of fears of a harsh IDF retaliation following the incident in which four soldiers were killed and five injured.

Official military sources also denied an IDF beef up in the security zone.

Valley Settlers Set Up Armed Guard

TA1002174794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The Jewish settlers of the Jordan Rift Valley have set up an armed guard which will patrol the roads of the region. They have presented the government with their red lines for the next stages of the political process. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Jordan Valley settlers held an emergency meeting this afternoon, in reaction to the signing of the Cairo agreement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 10 February adds the following: "In their meeting today, the settlers decided to present the three no's they will not allow to be broken: no Palestinian self-rule in the Jordan Rift Valley; no armed Palestinian police; and no territorial corridors for the Palestinians in the valley."]

David Levi, chairman of the regional council, claims that since the Document of Principles has been signed in Washington, Arabs have been illegally building in several locations in the region. He called these deliberate Arab settlements.

King Addresses Senate Foreign Affairs Committee

JN1302190794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Speech by King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 13 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You are welcome, brothers, in this house of yours. Many happy returns. God bless you all. I take boundless pride in our brotherhood. One always recalls the memories of the long, hard march and the challenges we faced. We have great faith that God will help us serve the country and the generations to come and fulfill our duties in a manner that will satisfy God almighty and our conscience.

I am certain the brothers have a great deal of information on what has happened, and is happening at this phase in our nation's life and our life in this country. There may be, however, an opportunity to enter into some details and listen to your observations on what is happening. We are, here, one family. I am happy to meet with this respectable group of brothers on this day in particular, with the king's private council and with the men, the builders who built this country. You, members of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, are welcome in this house of yours.

This is a critical and hard phase in terms of the efforts it requires from all of us. Thank God, this is the country of the big, one family of all origins. We are determined to maintain our national unity and our achievements as far as allowing the individual to share in shouldering his responsibility, chartering the road to the future through democracy, shura, and respect and protection of the Constitution and the National Charter. That charter was formulated by the children of this homeland and sets a course we must follow in the present and future.

The individual is very important, indeed. God willing, Jordan will be the state of institutions. This means participation by all people to shoulder their responsibility, with awareness and loyalty, and to prepare the road to the future. Additionally, we must continue our efforts to prevent any party from striking us in the heart, in terms of what we have succeeded in achieving, including democracy and participation by all people in shouldering their responsibility.

Through our work, we want to set an example to our brothers in this part of the world. Probably, this is not to the satisfaction of many quarters, because they do not know the true objective and goal we seek to achieve; that is to succeed in our course and reach our objectives and goals.

Therefore, the phase requires a great deal of vigilance, awareness, and cohesion by all in the face of all the attempts that may seek to distort the image of this country and its achievements, or march on a road that might lead—in the view of some people—to a reaction. We are committed to the path and the course we have chosen. We must preserve it. This is a trust everyone must protect. Thank God, all Jordanians have always demonstrated a degree of awareness—which they gained through the long hard march—of all that may threaten that march. But, in my view, and based on what we have seen recently, there has to be an extra degree of vigilance and awareness, a vigilance that will prevent any damage, God forbid.

We must look after the interests of the individual and his rights, as well as paying attention to the environment and whatever falls within the realm of our responsibility toward the coming generations. In a larger context, we decided, following a national convention here, to take the road of peace, beginning in Madrid, along with our brothers in the Arab world, particularly the Palestinians. In 1974, the Rabat summit decided that our Palestinian brothers should take charge of their own affairs in compliance with their own and the Arab nation's wishes at that time. Some of you here now took part in that meeting. Our position is clear. As of 1974, we promoted an implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which we co-authored in tough circumstances, and which was the best possible arrangement we could get at that time. Thereafter, our Palestinian brothers took responsibility for themselves. They have our full support.

Things then evolved in a way favoring a settlement compatible with a world trend. We began in Madrid. The Jordanian umbrella was a vehicle for our Palestinian brothers to run their affairs, insofar as their rights on their national soil are concerned. We agreed to take part in various conferences, including the multilateral talks, because we wanted the world to be involved in drawing the outlines of peace. Things developed in rapid succession until we came to the point where we could furl the umbrella and relegate it to the closet of history, so our Palestinian brothers might exercise their right to speak for themselves. Then, there was last September's Washington session and the agreement, followed by our signing of the agenda that addressed issues bearing on us here in Jordan, without prejudicing our brothers' rights on matters previously handled by us. I am speaking about Resolution 242 and the Arab territories conquered in 1967. The responsibility for these was switched to our Palestinian brothers, who can count on our full support as they pursue their rights.

There have been many proposals and attempts to get Jordan to sign a peace treaty with Israel before details are worked out. Our response was an outright rejection.

We stand with a just and comprehensive peace, although we are now dealing with our issues in this country, as well as its rights concerning occupied territories in the south and in the north. Jordanian sovereignty over them should be regained. Regarding water, which is also a topic on the agenda, a formula should be worked out in which we can know our country's share and the shares of other parties concerned. The question of human beings

as well as other topics should also be discussed. We believe peace is a goal. It is our duty to seek to reach it.

However, there will never be peace unless all these issues are resolved in a satisfactory and comfortable way. Peace comes at the end and not at the beginning. Then, all the elements that should be available to achieve peace should be discussed. We believe anyone who thinks of signing a peace treaty and then begins discussing details cannot reach peace, but will surrender. People will then try to improve their conditions and circumstances. We regret such a situation. We will never accept such a view or concept.

Meetings and negotiations on the agenda are continuing in an attempt to deal with all the aspects and issues pertaining to us, through continued dialogue in Washington and other parts of the world. We believe the other tracks will also move. They are actually moving, particularly the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track, in addition to the Palestinian side which is working continuously.

We tried, and we will continue to try, to reach the required level to face the challenge and to face up to our responsibilities toward the present and the future, particularly toward our Palestinian brethren. There should be coordination, not only in terms of titles, but also details, in every area in order to extend our support and talk with one voice and in one logic to serve the goals we seek.

The picture is improving, but I cannot say that we are 100 percent satisfied with all the aspects that should be dealt with. There is a serious intention to achieve this. Therefore, we will march on this path. We will insist on total coordination on issues of mutual interest until a situation arises in which everyone in this country can choose either membership in this one family to which we belong, or repatriation, or compensation. We are one family. We should adhere to all that has united us in the past. This is a duty at this critical stage, which expresses the fact that we are one family regardless of any consideration.

We are coordinating with our brothers in fraternal Syria. Regarding Lebanon, I also believe there is progress in the right direction. I believe there will be progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. Israel will have to recognize Syria's sovereignty over its occupied territories and over all of Golan.

On the other hand, it has been said Israel has no claims on any inch of Lebanese territory. Israel's only demand is to guarantee its security which, I believe, can be provided.

We, here, have many issues and matters that should be discussed and agreed upon before reaching the phase in which we will be reassured that all matters have been tackled.

I believe that between now and the end of the year—perhaps by the beginning of next year—we might find that progress has been achieved on all tracks to reach the objective that is sought.

What is this objective, as I, as well as my brothers, see it? The objective is to move from the current situation to a completely different one. The objective is that the coming generation will not live as we lived, that is, a life in which they will not be reassured about what will come in the future. We lived from one day to another. The objective is to see people living in an atmosphere that provides them with opportunities to advance in their life and to enjoy stability, democracy, participation in decisionmaking, and peace, that we hope will be just and honorable and accepted by the coming generations. The objective is to see that all opportunities will be available to all to achieve their aspirations and objectives, to live a free and honorable life, to remain steadfast on their land, and to exercise their rights in this life.

We want to leave for the coming generations opportunities of which we were deprived. We believe our people have enough potential, if they are given opportunities to advance and to exercise their rights in normal circumstances. What makes us very satisfied is that our country and our people are not in danger and that this position—which we have safeguarded from the beginning as a genuine Arab—is not subject to any possibilities like those we have been confronting throughout our life.

Our homeland is the homeland of the free people and its people's heads are high in the sky. Our people bow only to almighty God. We do not bargain over principle. We are not lenient vis-a-vis our rights. We seek to fully restore rights to their owners on their national soil and to carry our duties the best way we can for the sake of the coming generations.

As regards Jerusalem and our holy places, we cannot forget them for one moment. We have no choice but to continue shouldering our full responsibilities in terms of looking after them on behalf of our Islamic nation.

As regards Gaza and Jericho, if the issue is the beginning of the implementation of 242, the time will come when Jerusalem will be the Palestinian-Israeli meeting place. However, as regards our holy places—toward which we have shouldered our responsibilities and which belong to all Muslims throughout the world, in the past, in the present, and in the future—we found we had to propose and to endeavor to choose, from within our Islamic group, a good group of people who would represent all Islamic sects. This group of people, God willing, will not be politicized. In other words, they will not be affiliated with any school or be supportive of any one country's policy. We will support them with all our potential, because these holy places belong to all the Islamic world.

What we have accomplished is an honor, whether in terms of rescuing these holy places in the first place or in seeking to preserve them despite all that has happened and all that we faced.

We encourage dialogue among religions and demand that in terms of sovereignty the holy places be under the sovereignty of God almighty and his worshipers under future circumstances. We hope that this will happen, so the only recognized sovereignty over these holy places will be that of God. We will seek to gain God's satisfaction. We will continue to fear him. The positive results of this will not be confined just to this part of the world, but will have effects on mankind throughout the world.

Thanks be to God, during this month we will celebrate the completion of the project we have followed from the beginning, namely, the restoration of the holy dome of the rock. We will continue to support our brethren to the best of our abilities in terms of their needs and desires.

In my opinion, Palestine can either lean on this solid wall here [Jordan] or else lean in the other direction in the upcoming critical stage. Palestine represents our kinsfolk, our people, hopes, and aspirations. We are willing to carry out our duty. We never hesitated to do so at any time. We hope God will grant us success in cooperating with our brethren to support them in any way that can lead to wellbeing and success, God willing. With the help of almighty God, there will be nothing but (?success).

Incidents took place over here in the recent past. These include the loss of one of the homeland's sons in Lebanon in a grotesque, mean action. However, I am pleased to inform you that our brethren in Lebanon and Syria moved with us to the best of their abilities. This incident was directed against Lebanon, just as it was directed against us. This evil act encroached on the sovereignty, security, and stability of Lebanon, just as it grieved us in causing the loss of one of our good sons.

In a telephone conversation a few days ago, my brother his excellency the Lebanese president said that all those responsible for this incident had been arrested and that justice will take its course. He made a point of contacting me personally so that I would not hear this from any other source before hearing it from the president himslef. Naturally, we thanked him. We thank all our brothers for their contributions to exposing this crime and its dimensions and those who are responsible for it and who instigated it.

Regrettably this group, in particular, has in the past committed against us and against our diplomatic missions such crimes. On this occasion, it seems orders were issued from an Arab capital where the head of this criminal organization is hiding. Scores of questions have been raised in the past about this organization. All the details must be made available to the people.

As regards our domestic arena, the security agencies have, praise be to God, acted at the required level to face and confront some attempts to harm the image of this country, as well as criminal schemes hatched to inflict further harm. The question, with all its dimensions, is now being investigated. But we have to warn that there are certain parties that can reach our young men, who are not in a position to distinguish between good and bad, and influence them through various means and ways and drive them to commit crimes and carry out certain acts. What is even more dangerous is the fact that these parties try to address the point of weakness, which is also the point of strength, in everyone of us, that is, religion and faith. As far as the results are concerned, all these crimes have nothing to do with religion or faith. We noted on several occasions in the past what is being hatched against us, and against our religion, faith, and Islam. We also drew attention to the duty we all must fulfill, that is, not to allow things to go beyond the limits of what is logical and acceptable. The pulpits in mosques are the pulpits of God's messenger, God's prayers and peace by upon him, and of the legal guardians. We believe that, as of now, we should not allow anyone, any more, to exploit them for purposes that have nothing to do with our doctrine and our religion. Islam shall remain clear and pure, since this is what the moderate nation the Muslim nation is all about.

One cannot stand idly by over the attempts to drive people to crime and murder. We must warn against another fact. There is a small group of infiltrators who try to damage the entire picture and everything that has been achieved and won. I urge our people in our country to be vigilant and cautious and to close the door to these groups that have connections with foreign parties. Many doubts are cast about these connections. Their contacts may be within a framework broader than that of our Muslim world. When we have enough information, it must be presented to the people so they will know about what is going on.

All members of this one family—Muslims and Christians—are Jordanians who must band together and pull the rug from under whoever seeks to discredit this country and its achievements. Jordan must remain a strong and steadfast fortress that serves Palestine and our brothers and well-intentioned people throughout the great Arab homeland. We pray that God may grant us success and guidance, and that these are the results.

We are quite confident that life and death are in the lap of the gods. Our life span is fated by God. What we are after is God almighty's satisfaction and his help in allowing us to succeed, as long as we live, to fulfill our duties so our heads can remain held high.

I thank you for this visit and meeting. If you have any questions or comments, I'd be grateful and happy.

I thank you so much, brothers. Thanks be to God, this country is doing its bit and its duty. God willing, our brothers from Yemen will get together. They sought our help in their endeavor to maintain Yemen's unity and map out the outline of a promising future for a cherished part of our great Arab homeland, and we have been receptive. We will be glad to see Amman once more play the role of the capital of accord and reconciliation, when we play host to them quite soon. It will count as a major achievement. For us, it will mean more than just an effort we exerted or a duty we fulfilled. Hopefully, it will

usher in a resolution of intra-Arab differences within the framework of an Arab family, as we have always wanted and worked for. It will be an opportunity for each of us to do their duty by our kinsfolk and brothers. We pray for success from God.

In regard to our Armed Forces, they will continue to have our maximum support within the limits of our resources. I recently visited the Jordanian contingent within the international peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia. I was impressed by their high morale and the humane, but yet firm, way in which they conducted themselves. I myself was surprised to learn that next to France we have the second largest contingent there. We have been asked to contribute an even larger force, but I said we could not commit any more troops to that operation. We must thank God that the Jordanian soldier's character and moral standards and commitment to responsibility have earned him universal respect.

Husayn, 'Arafat Discuss PLO-Israeli Negotiations

JN1002181694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting today attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. A number of top officials from both sides attended.

The Palestinian president briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the outcome of the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides held in Cairo during the past few days. He explained the points on which the Palestinians and Israeli sides have agreed as well as the points that are still pending and need further discussion.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed to the Palestinian president the importance of continued coordination and consultation because this coordination enables Arabs, particularly Palestinians, to restore their rights and reinforce their negotiating stand.

His Majesty King Husayn noted Jordan's constant stand based on supporting the Palestinian brothers in every way possible until they achieve their rights on their national soil and as part of an effort to alleviate the suffering of the kinsfolk under occupation.

Also attending the meeting were Dr.'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-SHakir, chief of the Royal Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information; Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, deputy minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian negotiating delegation.

Attending on the Palestinian side were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Ahmad Quray', head of the Economic Department; Akram Haniyah, President 'Arafat's special adviser; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Afterwards, His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a closed meeting for some time. Following the meeting, his majesty the king and President 'Arafat responded to reporters' questions.

The Palestinian president left Amman this afternoon. His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan bade him farewell. Also present to bid him farewell were Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser; the minister of information; the deputy minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Upon bidding President 'Arafat farewell, His Majesty King Husayn made statements to reporters. He said:

[Begin Husayn recording] Through this short visit to his second homeland, His Excellency President 'Arafat provided us with a good opportunity to be briefed on what has taken place and, indeed, he did so. It was also an opportunity for me to affirm that our stand is constant in terms of fully supporting our kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine—as he is the leader of their march—to the best of our abilities during these circumstances and in the long run, God willing. I have noticed and I am pleased that our contacts are continuous and coordination between us is being upgraded to the level required to confront challenges and fully shoulder our responsibilities. [end recording]

Upon his departure from Amman, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made statements to reporters. He said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] First of all, I would like to thank his majesty the king for his warm embracement of all our issues and problems. He also shoulders even our concerns. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to you. Of course, this is not something strange coming from him. He is always shouldering the concerns of the one Jordanian-Palestinian family. We feel proud and are grateful to his majesty the king for shouldering this family's concerns in the face of all changes and developments.

I am pleased to be here today to put his majesty the king in the picture on developments and the talks I held with Peres, as well as talks between the Israeli delegation and the Palestinian delegation. I presented to his majesty the king the official documents that were signed. Moreover, I listened to his good views and ideas on confronting all future issues which we should address through joint efforts and action. This Jordanian-Palestinian family is a united family under his majesty the king's continuous care, God willing. [end recording]

Husayn, 'Arafat Comment After Talks

JN1002210894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon after a short visit and talks with his majesty the king. The Palestinian president briefed his majesty on yesterday's agreement with Israel on security issues that have blocked the start of Palestinian self-rule.

The king and Mr. 'Arafat met at the Queen Alia Airport outside Amman, where the Palestinian president handed his majesty a copy of the agreement. His majesty reaffirmed Jordan's absolute and unchanging support of the Palestinian people to regain their rights on their national soil. The two leaders then held a closed door meeting for further discussions of bilateral ties and regional developments. Following the talks, his majesty the king said coordination with the Palestinians was rising to the required level, while President 'Arafat urged the need for joint action with Jordan.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Ruba 'Assaf in progress] ...PLO?

[Husayn] We are very happy indeed that we have had this opportunity presented today by the visit of my brother President 'Arafat. And he has been kind enough to come and explain to us all that has happened. And I believe that we are witnessing the emergence of a strong mechanism, hopefully of coordination on all issues. And I had the opportunity to reiterate our total support for our Palestinian brethren under the leadership of the president, and our very strong commitment on top of desire to help and support in any way we can the process in the difficult times ahead.

['Arafat] We stress upon this very important the relation between the one Jordanian-Palestinian family under his supervision and under his auspices. [sentence as heard] And we have to strengthen more and more our coordination in all fields.

['Assaf] When do you expect to sign a final agreement on Gaza and Jericho? When do you plan to enter Gaza and Jericho?

['Arafat] Still, there is some issues has to be discussed between the two committees, especially those issues which are still discussion in Taba and in the Economic Committee in Paris. And after that, we hope that in the end of this month, we hope that we have something to make the final draft, which will be signed by me and Mr. Rabin. [end recording]

Paper Lauds Husayn-'Arafat Meeting

JN1102110794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Feb 94 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Text] The quick working visit of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Jordan to brief his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, on the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in Cairo, comes as a reaffirmation of the vital historic relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian political leaderships. This visit also stressed the deep and strong bilateral understanding and coordination between them.

The Jordanian leadership has always been eager for coordination, particularly with the Palestinian side. Moreover, Jordan has continued to call incessantly for increasing the level of coordination on every occasion, including the Palestinian president's visit yesterday. His Majesty King Husayn once again emphasized the importance of continued coordination and consultations among all Arab parties, especially since such coordination will enable the Palestinian side, in particular, to consolidate its negotiating position and regain its rights.

Jordan welcomed the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles that was signed approximately four months ago. While maintaining its adherence to the option of a just and comprehensive peace, Jordan can only express its support for the recent Cairo agreement. This is because the agreement is a strong mechanism for implementing the Declaration of Principles, and it will open the way for Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza Strip and some areas in the occupied West Bank.

The Husayn-'Arafat meeting yesterday, and the deep fraternal talks the two leader held, were a good opportunity for Jordan to stress its constant position of extending full and absolute support for the Palestinian kinsfolk and brothers. At the same time, this meeting was another opportunity for the Palestinian president to express the Palestinian people's thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn for his courageous positions in sharing the Palestinians concerns and defending the causes of the one Jordanian-Palestinian family.

Information Minister Comments

JN1202102594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan does not anticipate having any problems with the security related issues entailed in the agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed in Cairo on Wednesday [9 February].

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES Friday that because the PLO had signed a security agreement with Jordan in mid-January "we presume that Jordanian security considerations are calculated into the PLO-Israeli agreement."

Well-informed Jordanian sources also said that initial reading of the PLO-Israel document showed it to be "satisfactory."

The sources did not elaborate, but one said that "it appeared to support the Jordanian negotiating position" although a "more thorough reading of the document is needed."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat visited Amman Thursday for a short stopover during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and briefed him on the accord he reached with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He also handed over a copy of the Cairo agreement to the King.

This visit, albeit short, was apparently intended to prevent the kind of tension that arose after the PLO surprised the Kingdom by announcing the Oslo agreement without prior serious coordination with Jordan.

King Husayn has repeatedly called on the PLO to coordinate positions with the Kingdom and until last week was saying coordination was not of the level needed.

Jordanian officials, although still critical that there was no synchronisation of steps by the PLO with Jordan before reaching the Cairo agreement, were positively encouraged by Mr. 'Arafat's stopover in Amman to brief King Husayn immediately after the signing of the accord.

The King and Mr. 'Arafat held a short meeting at the Queen Alia International Airport after which King Husayn said that "coordination and consultations are continuing (between the PLO and Jordan) and are of the level needed to face the challenges and meet the responsibilities fully."

The King said that Mr. 'Arafat's visit to Amman "was a good opportunity to brief us on what happened," adding that it was also an opportune time "to reaffirm (to 'Arafat) that our position has not changed in our absolute and full support for our family and brothers in Palestine and with all our strength and capabilities."

Mr. 'Arafat told reporters after the meeting that he was "happy and proud to have had this opportunity to discuss with His Majesty many important issues, especially the negotiations that took place in Cairo."

"I have listened to His Majesty's thoughts and ideas on ways to deal with future issues which we must meet as one and through a joint effort," Mr. 'Arafat said, adding that "this Jordanian-Palestinian family is one that is headed by His Majesty King Husayn and is always under his care."

Dr. al-'Anani, in telephone interview, said that "coordination has improved" between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides and that Thursday's meeting was "very good."

He denied that there was continued tension between the PLO and Jordan over coordination and said that the "Palestinians were fully aware of our position (regarding security issues) before they signed the agreement with Israel."

"I don't anticipate any problems with the PLO-Israel agreement because it appears to be borne out of our agreement with the PLO," Dr. al-'Anani said.

The PLO and Jordan concluded a draft security agreement in mid January which at the time was described by a PLO official as an accord that "would set the principles of future coordination on issues of borders, training and exchange of security information with the Jordanians.'"

Although the details of the January accord were not made public, a PLO security official was quoted as saying that it laid the basis for future security coordination and enhanced the PLO's negotiating position with the Israelis "by coordinating our own side's views."

On Wednesday, Mr. 'Arafat and Mr. Peres signed the 21-page document dealing with security issues and border crossing points in a ceremony hosted by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Most of it was put together in marathon talks held both in Davos and Cairo.

Mr. 'Arafat gave King Husayn a copy of the agreement during Thursday's meeting and told reporters he "was enlightened by the King's views on the various issues we must face together.

He thanked the King for what he described as his "warm embrace of all our problems and issues."

"It is not strange for the King (to do that) when he already carries the worries of the Jordanian-Palestinian family," Mr. 'Arafat told journalists before leaving for Tunis.

Al-'Anani on Accord, Other Tracks

NC1302205994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, in Amman, by Shadiyah Riyad, in Cairo, from the "The Talking Newspaper" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Dr. al-'Anani, what is Jordan's assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli achievement evident in the agreement signed by Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo a few days ago?

[Al-'Anani] We hope that this agreement will be a step toward a comprehensive solution that will enable the Palestinian people to enjoy their full rights on their national soil and establish peace and future regional prosperity. Of course this step required much discussion and passed through many stages. I believe that the signing of the agreement in Cairo, with the backing of Egyptian foreign policy and political assistance at the highest Egyptian levels, constitutes an important step that gives us fresh hope that the peace negotiations will

eventually produce practical results. Although some problems exist and some people take a different view of the matter, we see it as a good step and as a prelude to better future steps, God willing.

[Riyad] Dr. al-'Anani, as Your Excellency noted, these negotiations took a long time and some problems remain unresolved. However the major issues pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles have been settled and solutions satisfactory to both sides have been found. Negotiations on other points and details will resume in Taba and Paris. Do you believe that the time factor is important at this stage?

[Al-'Anani] The time factor is certainly important because the people must be continuing to hope that the entire peace process is proceeding toward practical implementation. I believe that a long time has passed since the Madrid conference. Additionally, the Declaration of Principles of 13 September 1993 specified a timetable for actual measures. The specified Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho should have taken place in December 1993. Delay produces frustration among the people and encourages the feeling that the peace process is slow and might lead nowhere. However, this recent and specific achievement bodes well, shows that matters are proceeding toward actual implementation, and that people will regain their lawful rights.

[Riyad] Do you believe that progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track will give impetus to the negotiations on the other tracks, particularly the Syrian track?

[Al-'Anani] In Jordan we always believe that progress on any track will eventually have a positive impact on the other tracks. In the short term, this might not appear true because the so-called Israeli public opinion does not appear able to cope with progress on more than one track at a time. This gives the impression that progress on one negotiating track might be at the expense of another. I believe, nevertheless, that any success must necessarily produce hope and reinforce the credibility of the negotiations on the other tracks.

[Riyad] Dr. al-'Anani, perhaps there is stagnation now on the Syrian track, contrary to what was expected immediately after the Clinton-al-Asad Geneva meeting. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is urging that the level of talks with Syria be raised. He believes it is necessary to hold a summit between Rabin and al-Asad. Do you think the time is propitious to hold such a summit?

[Al-'Anani] Of course we leave the answer to this question to our brothers in Syria. They know better. I believe they have given a reply to this Israeli proposal. Certainly it is not a question of raising or lowering the level of the talks. Everything has its own symbols and significance. We believe that the negotiations conducted by the Syrian and Israeli delegations for two years in Washington did not produce definite results. As a result of Israel's intransigence, the talks fell into a vicious circle. We believe it is time to get things moving. The heads of the delegations will hold consultative meetings starting next Tuesday [15 February]. If Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation, is willing to make constructive proposals to Mr. al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, and the Syrian leadership judges that these proposals need to be discussed at a higher level and that a possibility exists to make definite progress, then I believe that the Syrian leadership will decide to raise the level of negotiations. If things remain unchanged, however, I do not believe there will be sufficient reason to raise the level of negotiations.

[Riyad] Dr. al-'Anani, one last question. Do you expect progress on the Jordanian negotiating track at this stage?

[Al-'Anani] At this time?

[Riyad] Yes.

[Al-'Anani] According to the statements we heard from Israeli officials, it appears that, following the progress on the Palestinian front, they are focusing on the Syrian track. We in Jordan have no objections at all. We believe that progress on any Arab negotiating track is an achievement serving the objective of the comprehensive peaceful solution that we constantly advocate. It is still possible for progress to occur on the Jordanian track. Our position is perfectly clear. It is necessary to begin by solving the water and border issues. So far, the Israelis do not seem willing to discuss these issues with sufficient clarity. They might be somewhat flexible on the water issue, but we have seen no movement on their part in connection with the border issue. If they show a willingness to make progress on this point and expedite measures to return the occupied Jordanian territories, this will open the way to reasonable solutions on the other points on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

[Riyad] Dr. al-'Anani, thank you.

[Al-'Anani] You are welcome.

'Official' Source: Libya Behind Diplomat's Murder

JN1302203394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman from the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Jordan's King Husayn has said that the killers of the Jordanian diplomat in Beirut, at the end of last month, belong to an extremist group that received orders from an Arab country. The king did not disclose the name of that country. An official Jordanian source, however, told our radio that the Arab country is Libya and that the group, which carried out the operation, is Fatah-the Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nida. [passage omitted]

Progress in Nonpolitical Talks 'Dangerous Sign'

JN1302101494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Feb 94 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Whirlpool of Agreements"]

[Text] When the Arab-Israeli negotiations began in Washington, it seemed to observers, and even to ordinary people, that the two negotiating sides were in a heated race to achieve peace. Many believed that attaining this objective was not a matter of years or months, but of a few weeks, and then everything would be settled.

The negotiations moved to Washington, then returned to the region. The nonpolitical negotiations continued to be held behind closed doors, making it impossible to know much about their results. However, what is leaked indicates that the experts are making great progress in all nonpolitical fields. This is a dangerous sign because it emphasizes that the Israelis want to get everything before even thinking about implementing the Security Council resolutions.

The agreement that was signed in Cairo last Wednesday, and the subsequent Israeli statements, are merely naive attempts to extract butter from water. Reading the texts of this agreement does not satisfy the Arab citizen, in general, and the Palestinian citizen, in particular, that an achievement was attained, but that the exact opposite was realized.

The Arab-Israeli negotiations are creeping slowly on their knees after their feet have become too tired to carry them. These negotiations are so slow that one can speak about many years before we see a real Israeli acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. Therefore, the nonpolitical Arab-Israeli negotiations and the agreements reached in these talks on water and environment, narcotics and smuggling, and school and university syllabuses, radio and television programs, tourism, and many other issues, represent something very dangerous. We hope that the Arab negotiator will refuse to sign anything before something is achieved on the political and military tracks, which have become marathon roads full of thorns, nails, and banana skins.

Iran Reportedly Urges House To Stop Gaza-Jericho

JN1102205094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 12-18 Feb 94 p 2

[Text] SHIHAN has learned that House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri has received a letter from Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

SHIHAN has obtained the text of the letter, which urges the Jordanian House of Representatives to adopt appropriate measures to nullify the Gaza-Jericho agreement, dubbed by the letter as a disgraceful treaty.

The letter asserted that a practical approach to nullify the agreement is to emphasize armed jihad as the only and best way to face Zionist schemes and colonialism.

The letter explained Iran's view toward threats to the al-Aqsa Mosque in holy Jerusalem. The letter denounced the Islamic nations' silence toward the serious, false decisions made by what it termed the demonic Zionist movement against the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Sources on Notification of Yemeni Accord Signing

JN1302121094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has not been officially informed of the Yemeni mediation committee's decision to sign the reconciliation agreement between former South and North Yemen in Amman of Feb. 20, official sources said Saturday [12 February].

But Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani said Jordan would welcome a decision to sign the accord in Amman "if our brothers in Yemen have decided so."

The sources said, however, that Jordan would not sponsor the signing of the reconciliation accord unless it is clear that the agreement would succeed in ending the conflict between Yemeni President 'Ali Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

News agencies Friday quoted the spokesman of the Yemeni dialogue committee, Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, as saying that the committee had agreed "with our Jordanian brethren" to have the accord signed in Amman on Feb. 20.

Agence France-Presse quoted a Yemeni official it did not name as saying that leaders of the three parties in the governing coalition would attend the signing ceremony to which Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat would be invited.

An official source did not specifically say whether Mr. 'Arafat would attend the signing ceremony if it takes place in Amman. But this source said that Sultan Qabus of Oman, who mediated between the Yemeni parties, would be invited.

Diplomatic sources in Amman said that Yemeni parties are divided on which Arab leaders should be invited to the signing ceremony, adding that some prefer that only Yemeni officials attend it.

The sources refused to give any details about arrangements for signing the accord, which was reached on Jan. 18.

Sources said that some Arab parties are not happy with plans for having the reconciliation agreement signed in Jordan, which played a major role in mediation efforts between Mr. Salih and Mr. al-Bid. "This could be one

major reason why the plans are not materialising as soon as we would like," one source said.

His Majesty King Husayn said last week that Jordan was very concerned with the situation in Yemen and "would do everything possible" to help solve the conflict, which threatended the merger of the formerly socialist South and conservative North.

The agreement was supposed to be signed in Amman early this month but the date was scuttled after new differences emerged between Mr. Salih and Mr. al-Bid.

The Yemeni crisis developed when Mr. al-Bid left the Yemeni capital Sanaa for South Yemen's capital Aden on Aug 19 where he remains until now. The crisis resulted from differences of opinion on the pace of the union as well as economic and social reform.

In elections held last April, Mr. Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) and Mr. al-Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) emerged as the two dominant parties and agreed to form a coalition government headed by Mr. Salih as president and Mr. al-Bid as vice- president. The Islamic al-Islah [Islamic Reform] party was later invited to the coalition.

But political differences emerged thereafter, with Mr. al-Bid accusing Mr. Salih and his GPC of trying to dominate the country and running an elimination campaign against southern leaders.

The reconciliation accord drawn up last week envisages political and economic reforms demanded by Mr. al-Bid and accepted by Mr. Salih.

U.S. 'Source' Cited on Economic, Military Aid

JN1102170294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] A senior White House source has asserted that the U.S. Administration is seriously considering providing economic and military aid to Jordan in recognition of its distinguished role and importance in the region.

In reply to a question by a correspondent for the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY in Washington, the responsible U.S. source, which requested anonymity, said His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton were successful. The discussions addressed ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

Addressing reporters from 17 countries—who are visiting the United States at the private invitation of the U.S. Information Agency—the source said President Clinton's administration greatly appreciates Jordan's stands, its genuine desire for peace, and its efforts to achieve it in accordance with UN resolutions.

The source added that Jordanian-U.S. contacts are continuing, pointing out that so far no specific decision has been made on the size and nature of U.S. aid to Jordan.

The source said the decision of the U.S. Administration and its allies to give a warning to the Bosnian Serbs was in line with the desire of the U.S. public to end the siege on Bosnian Muslims in Sarajevo and the need to end the war in the Balkans.

Egypt's Decision To Pull Out of Pact Said 'Tragic'

JN0902124694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Blocs Versus States"]

[Text] The Egyptian Parliament's decision on Monday [7 February] to abrogate Egypt's status as a signatory to the agreement that created the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in January 1989 is regrettable to say the least. Needless to say, the move means Egypt's withdrawal from the economic and political alliance with Jordan, Yemen and Iraq. It is true that the council, formed at the height of political coordination and cooperation among the four member states, went into limbo after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and reviving it now does not look an easy task, given the state of isolation Iraq is finding itself in.

But it is equally tragic that one of its members found it fit to quit the alliance for whatever reason at a time when the shifting regional and international patterns underline the importance of regional blocs in the developing world to get a better deal from the developed world.

Launched as an ambitious grouping to gain the benefit from a collective impact of the material and human resources of the four countries while dealing with the outside world, the ACC got off to a good start and was holding out promises of fruits of sincere cooperation and coordination when the Gulf crisis struck it down. Going into apportioning blame for the tragedy that befell the Arab world is a futile, academic exercise and will not serve any useful purpose and will only open old wounds.

But, in a wider perspective, the Egyptian decision to quit the ACC raises another serious and grave question: Does it mean that Cairo has given up hopes that Iraq would be rehabilitated into mainstream Arab and international politics?

The reality that cannot be waived aside with any gesture, political or economic, is that Iraq and its 18 million people are a part and parcel of the Arab Nation. Indeed, Jordan's concern had always been and remains to be an anxiety to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. Regardless of whatever anybody had said or has or will say about it, the Jordanian stand remains firm that Arab and international efforts should seek to help the people of Iraq to survive the national catastrophe that has befallen them and eventually their country should reassume the rightful role it has always played in Arab politics and economics. The process might take some time, but the wounds have to be healed and Iraq has to be and will be brought back into the regional and

international mainstream. And when that happens, we, the countries of the region, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and others included, would still be facing the same equation: Blocs vs. states in a world of cutthroat economic policies and markets against which we have to defend ourselves and protect our interests, something better served if done collectively.

Arrests Made in Assassination of Jordanian Envoy

Internal Security Announces Arrests

NC1102070694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the public relations branch of the Internal Security Forces Directorate; date not given]

[Text] At 0930 on 29 January, Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, was assassinated in front of his home in Australia Street, Beirut. Immediately afterward, all the units of the internal security forces were instructed by Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, director general of the internal security forces, to immediately carry out investigations and gather information on the criminals before they are arrested and handed over to the Judiciary.

On the night of 4 February, Staff Brigadier General Salim Salim, commander of the Judiciary Police Corps, obtained information that a Palestinian person called Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban, whose nom de guerre is Wa'il Mahmud 'Ali, is the perpetrator or the instigator or implicated and involved in this incident. Coordination between the Lebanese Security Service and the Syrian military intelligence branch of the Syrian Arab Forces in Lebanon led to the arrest of Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban.

The judiciary was informed of developments. It issued instructions for the start of investigations, which were carried out by Staff Colonel Mahmud al-Rida, head of the special criminal intelligence branch, and Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali al-Sha'ir, head of the antiterrorism bureau. The investigations were supervised by the commander of the Judiciary Police Corps.

In light of the coordination, three perpetrators involved in the incident were detained. All of them are Palestinians. The investigations have revealed that the killer is Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban, alias Wa'il, who was aided by the three detained and others who are still at large.

The internal security forces, coordinating with the other Lebanese security services and the Syrian intelligence branch of the Syrian Forces in Lebanon, continue to make diligent efforts to find and arrest the other perpetrators and refer them to the judiciary.

Al-Hirawi Informs King Husayn

NC1002211194 Paris AFP in English 2033 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 10 (AFP)—Killers of a Jordanian diplomat gunned down in Beirut last month have been arrested, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi told King Husayn of Jordan in a telephone call Thursday, the official ANI news agency said. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Name Detainees

NC1102133194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Judicial sources have revealed to our radio the names of the three Palestinians accused of assassinating Na'ib 'Umaran al-Ma'ayitah, first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. They are Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban, alias Wa'il Muhammad 'Ubayd, whose name has already been announced; Bassam 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Atiyah; and Qasim Mihyu. The sources said that the accused Palestinians will be handed over for questioning to Sa'id Mirza, first investigating judge in Beirut, within the next few hours.

Detainees Allegedly FRC Members

NC1102133694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban, who was said yesterday to be the assassin of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, belongs to the Abu-Nidal organization [Fatah Revolutionary Council, FRC]. This report was confirmed today by a high-ranking security source, who said the murderer and three other Palestinians, suspected of being his accomplices in the assassination, are members of the FRC led by Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal. The source said that the four individuals admitted that they are members of the FRC.

REUTER cited Brigadier General Staff Salim Salim, commander of the judicial police, as saying that the latest investigation into the case revealed that one of the three suspects is a woman, who is more of a witness than an accomplice to the crime. He noted that at first she declined to give particular information but did so later. The judiciary will determine the fate of each suspect. Security sources said the Palestinian detainees have been placed under strict security guard for fear that they might be attacked in jail.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi informed King Husayn of Jordan last night that the Lebanese authorities have apprehended the Jordanian diplomat's killer. He said the law will take its course.

Minister Refuses To Identify Detainees

NC1202072094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Minister of Interior Bisharah Mirhij has refused to disclose the identity of the Palestinians who assassinated the Jordanian diplomat. He said: We are not yet sure of their affiliation with any Palestinian faction.

Mirhij affirmed that the extraordinary security measures adopted by the Lebanese security forces and Army will remain in force to deal with the upcoming political phase, denying any security slackness. He stressed the maintenance of security for all embassies and diplomatic missions in Lebanon.

Hizballah Leader Calls For 'Arafat's 'Destruction'

NC1302180794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah has called for the destruction of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which he described as an accord of humiliation.

Speaking during a Hizballah rally held on the second anniversary of the assassination of former Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, Nasrallah said that armed struggle is the sole way to achieve real peace.

He pledged to continue attacks on the Israeli forces' positions in Lebanon.

'Terrorism Academy' Uncovered in Beirut Suburb

NC1202072194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] The existence of a terrorism academy in Burj al-Barajinah [south Beirut] was revealed yesterday. Judge Nasri Lahhud, the government's representative at the Military Tribunal, has indicted the Palestinian Ghalib Husayn al-Jamal, currently in custody, on the charge of training individuals to carry out terrorist operations and manufacture the necessary explosives for such activity. Al-Jamal opened a school in Burj al-Barajinah, calling it the Academy of Terrorist Operations. He charged $50 for each lesson.

Judge Lahhud also indicted al-Jamal's brother-in-law, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, currently at large, for supplying al-Jamal with terrorist trainees over a period of four months. He referred the case to the military prosecutor.

Press Reacts to Israeli-PLO Cairo Agreement

TISHRIN: 'New Gain' for Israel

JN1202101494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Feb 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Refuses To Return the Occupied Territories," the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the outcome of the Cairo agreement recently signed between the PLO and Israel. The paper explains that Israel has once again confirmed that it does not want a just and comprehensive peace, nor does it want to return the occupied Arab territories to their owners.

TISHRIN says: What was accomplished in Oslo and what happened in Cairo clearly shows that Israel is focusing on separate deals and partial procedures designed to guarantee its security and tighten its control of the situation in the occupied territories. Moreover, Israel wants a partner to join it in protecting its security under the slogan of repressing terrorism. Rabin pointed to this issue in statements, carried on Israeli radio, during a meeting held by the Labor Party in Tel Aviv after the Cairo agreement was signed. Rabin said this agreement will allow Israel to repress terrorism. Rabin added: We can only do so if we have a partner who realizes that he cannot achieve his objectives if our security is not guaranteed. It is in our interest that this partner should take our security concerns into consideration.

TISHRIN asserts that Rabin's remarks do not need any comment. It adds: These remarks, however, show that Israel still adheres to all its pretexts and delusions, and places the Cairo agreement in its real context; namely, this agreement is a new gain for Israel.

The paper continues: All the Israeli statements that welcomed this agreement apparently indicate that the Rabin government will continue its policy of shirking the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, that it will continue its subversive efforts to undermine the formula of the Madrid conference, and that Israel will keep pursuing a policy in conflict with the bases of a just and comprehensive peace. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the Israeli insistence that this agreement is a precedent for separate deals? What is the meaning of Israel's refusal to seriously deal with the bases of the Madrid conference and the resolutions of international legitimacy? These resolutions call for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and for returning the territories in exchange for peace.

TISHRIN adds: We pose all these questions in order to emphasize that peace cannot be achieved or maintained unless there is a just, comprehensive, and balanced solution whose approaches and objectives take into account the regaining of all Arab territories and rights. Israel is fully aware that partial settlements and separate deals cannot make peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Thus, these agreements cannot be an alternative to a real, just, and comprehensive peace. Both the world and the international community's will were unanimous in demanding, with clear and unequivocal resolutions, a peace that cannot be subjected to procrastination. Based on these resolutions, the Madrid conference was held, and the principles and elements of peace were crystallized. Also based on these resolutions, the terms of reference and objectives of such a peace were determined; namely, Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories first and foremost.

Papers Criticize Agreement

JN1302102494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Achievement of Just and Comprehensive Peace is an International Responsibility," the newspaper AL-BA'TH editorial says: Many world capitals are taking a special interest in the current Middle East situation. This interest seems to be prompted by fears over the possible collapse of the peace process, which was viewed by the world as a unique opportunity for the achievement of just and comprehensive peace that would spare the region the calamities of war and provide it with security and stability, one that would not come again.

The paper adds: The world community is unanimous that a durable peace must begin with an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, because this would consecrate international legitimacy. This is a must if the requirements of peace are to be met. It goes without saying that meeting these requirements would help the peace process achieve its objectives, which are enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

The paper notes the working paper Syria submitted to the Israeli negotiators during the sixth round of the Washington bilateral talks, which was appreciated by the world community and deemed a positive step forward. The world community believes that if heeded, this paper would help achieve true peace in the region. However, Israel, which was pressured into attending the Madrid conference in the first place, has declined to discuss the article pertaining to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and raised issues that should have been raised only after rather than before the withdrawal is completed.

The paper goes on to say: Israel's position on this issue has to date remained unchanged. For, the Rabin government has continued to make impossible and unacceptable demands. The developments in the peace process over the past two years have revealed to the world which party is working to achieve just and comprehensive peace, and which is working to thwart this noble objective.

In this regard, the paper notes the reaffirmation made by Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding the need to achieve a just and comprehensive regional settlement, affirming that there can be no peace in the region unless Syria restores its sovereignty over the Golan.

AL-BA'TH says: If this is indicative of anything, it is of the entire world community's convictions that if peace is to be achieved in the region, Israel must implement the relevant UN resolutions, which provide for complete and full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The world community, which is taking a special interest in achieving a just regional settlement, is required, now more than ever before, to take a firmer and more serious position to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: Undoubtedly, the world community is fully convinced that Israel has continued to obstruct the efforts aimed at achieving just and comprehensive peace, the peace that is grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and that would achieve security, stability, and prosperity in the region.

AL-THAWRAH notes the difficulties and obstacles the Israeli Government has created to obstruct the peace process and prevent it from achieving any accomplishment that could promote the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East through the pursuit of a policy based on evasion and procrastination to evade any clear commitment to the requirements of peace, as enshrined in international legitimacy resolutions. Israel has repeatedly and deliberately stepped up violence, repression, and terrorism in both the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon to provoke the Arabs and make them abandon the peace process.

The paper adds: Nonetheless, recent developments have undoubtedly shown that Israel has failed to achieve its objectives in this regard. Had it not been for the patience, wisdom, and prudence demonstrated by the Arabs when confronted with Israel's maneuvers and games, the peace process would have collapsed. The positive stands the Arabs have taken toward the peace process and their honest favorable response to the efforts made to activate the bilateral talks have enlightened the world community in general and the United States in particular with regard to peace process issues. These stands have prompted the world community and the United States to conclude that it is the Arabs who are honest in their peace efforts, that they are working to achieve durable and true peace, and that they are the party that respects international legitimacy and clings to its resolutions and laws. What the Arabs are demanding is only that the principles of right and justice be upheld.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: In contrast to this positive Arab stand, Israel has been exposed to the world community as an aggressive occupation power that does not care about peace. Its peace stand is tailored to promote its ambitions and objectives.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The bilateral talks will be resumed in Washington at the chief delegates' level within days. The achievement of progress in these talks requires a drastic change in the Israeli negotiating positions. It also requires a reconsideration on Israel's part of many of its flawed perceptions and views regarding the nature of the solution required for the region.

Under the headline "Israeli Threats," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israel has revived the policy of threats and intimidation against the Arabs of the occupied Arab territories, deriving strength from the Cairo agreement signed by 'Arafat and Peres. This agreement has granted Israel complete control over security affairs. These threats are coming even before the ink used to sign this agreement has dried. Israel has stepped up its terrorist and repressive policy against the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and warned that collective punitive measures will be escalated if the resistance and intifadah-related activities are continued, and if the condemnations and denunciations of the Cairo agreement continue to be made.

The paper adds: What Israel is saying is that aggressive and terrorist military force could be used to ensure the implementation of the Cairo agreement. Israel, before others, is aware that this agreement has nothing to do with peace, and that it cannot be called a move toward achieving just and comprehensive peace.

The paper maintains that the Cairo agreement has ensured Israel a powerful partner in accomplishing the so-called security missions, and in protecting settlements. The agreement has granted Israel the authority to pursue suspects.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Partial measures and separate deals could only aggravate the situation. They will create a state of open war in the occupied territories. The developments that we have seen in the aftermath of the Oslo accord and the Cairo deal are testimony to all that we are saying.

U.S. Envoy Rules Out Christopher Trip to Mideast

NC1302103694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Ambassador in Syria Christopher Ross has stressed his country's seriousness in establishing a comprehensive, just peace in the region. He said: Let us wait and see the outcome of the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington the day after tomorrow, that is, Tuesday.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Damascus, Ross ruled out the possibility of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's touring the region's countries at present.

Afghanistan

69 Casualties in Kabul; al-Ghabid Seeks Cease-Fire

LD1002170094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] As a result of rocket attacks against the positions of the forces of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul yesterday 19 people were killed and 50 injured. Reporting this news, REUTER added: The joint forces of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and General 'Abdorrashid Dostam attacked areas in south and east Kabul. Kabul radio reported that in those attacks more than 600 rockets were fired.

Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Hamid al-Ghabid met with the officials of the two warring factions in Kabul yesterday and called on them to stop the clashes during the holy month of Ramadan.

Government Captures Four Posts; Rebels Bombard Kabul

LD1002171894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] According to a report by a BAKHTAR military correspondent, as a result of the attack by forces of the Islamic army, four enemy posts have been captured in the direction of Chehelsotun by units of the Islamic army. [words indistinct] were killed in Jangalak and around Bala Hesar and a number of others were injured. To compensate for their repeated defeats, the infamous militia today targeted residential areas of Kabul City with savage rocket attacks. As a result a number of our innocent compatriots were killed or injured. In addition to the loss of lives, the landing of rockets caused much material damage too. The artillery of the Islamic army responded to the savage rocket attack of the infamous militia by crushing the enemy positions in Maranjan hill and Charasiab with heavy weapons fire. As a result extensive loss of life and heavy damage were inflicted on the infamous militia. According to another report, this morning an aeroplane of Dostam's militia stealthily bombarded residential areas of the city. Fortunately, it caused no loss of life, but much damage was inflicted on residential areas.

Rabbani 'Conditionally' Accepts ICO Cease-Fire Plan

LD1102154294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, has conditionally accepted the proposal of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid to establish a cease-fire. During a two-day visit to Pakistan, Algabid meet with mei representatives of the warring sides in Afghanistan and proposed that a cease-fire be observed during the blessed month of Ramadan.

Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that he will accept a cease-fire with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] on the condition that the Hezb-e Eslami pledges to observe it as well.

In the meantime, reports from Afghanistan suggest that the two sides' planes subjected one another's positions to aerial bombardment today. On the basis of these reports, heavy weapons fire was exchanged between the warring sides today in several parts of Kabul.

Warring Sides Deny Official Cease-Fire in Effect

LD1302185794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Reports from Kabul suggest that an unofficial cease-fire has come into effect there. This is at a time when the residents of Kabul face growing problems in connection with obtaining food.

In the meantime, the warring sides in Afghanistan have rejected rumors that an official cease-fire has been announced in Kabul. One official from Rabbani's faction said: The current cease-fire is a result of bad weather, snow, and the month of Ramadan and it is not, in any way, an official cease-fire.

Hekmatyar Appeals to Iran To Take Active Peace Role

LD1302135594 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar appealed to Iran to take an active role for restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

In a telephone conversation with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he appreciated Iran's former peace efforts in his country.

Hekmatyar congratulated Velayati on the anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and on the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

Velayati in response expressed concern over the current fighting in Afghanistan and voiced Iran's readiness to resolve the conflict.

Since the outbreak of the civil war in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly called on the belligerent parties to end the conflict and has launched mediation efforts to this end.

Court Backs Rabbani, Urges 'Jihad' Against Rebels

LD1102172094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] The Supreme Court of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] condemns the Karmal-Dostam-Golboddin coup attempt, and considers the ISA

a legal government. The court describes the uprising against the ISA as a rebellion and its perpetrators as rebels. According to a report by Bakhtar Information Agency, the leadership and officials of the Supreme Court of the ISA held a session at the headquarters of the Supreme Court yesterday. In the meeting they insisted that because the president of the ISA has been elected by the Resolution and Settlement Council, and later this election was approved under different agreements by leaders and jihadi parties or their representatives, obedience to him is the Islamic duty of all citizens of the country. As a high judicial source of the country, the Supreme Court supports the order of the president for jihad against the infamous triangle of Karmal-Dostam-Golboddin, and it asks our all faithful people to take part in this holy jihad.

Cabinet Considers Rabbani's Future Term in Office

LD1302220094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] A meeting of the cabinet was chaired this morning by Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Arsalan Rahmani. The ministry's press department reported that today's session comprehensively reviewed the current situation in the country. It reported that necessary measures were taken following an exchange of views and positive proposals.

The cabinet of the Islamic State of Afghanistan sincerely asks all Muslim and mojahed brothers of the country, by following the praiseworthy teachings of Islam and mercy over the situation of the suffering people of [the city of] Kabul and in respect for the sacred month of Ramadan, to keep open the supply routes for the transfer of primary goods [to the capital] during this sacred month and to normalize the flow of electricity to Kabul.

Also today, in line with a draft peace plan by the cabinet which had been presented by a commission headed by Planning Minister 'Ali Sayyed Mohammad Javid, the cabinet decided that the following points should made and publicized concerning the solution of the present crisis and the establishment of the future [word indistinct] political order in the country:

1. The present crisis should be solved through talks and understanding.
2. In accordance with the Jalalabad agreement [word indistinct] the present regime should continue in office for a period of five months.
3. To provide suitable conditions for [?the election] of representatives of the Muslim people of Afghanistan [words indistinct] under the supervision of the United Nations and Islamic Conference Organization to elect their leadership and political destiny.

The details of the draft will be published later.

Rabbani Congratulates Iran on Revolution Anniversary

LD1002211194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] A source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], has sent a congratulations message on the occasion of 15th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran to the president of that country. Text is as follows:

Esteemed brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, peace and the blessings of God upon you. On behalf of the state and Muslim people of the ISA and myself I convey the most cordial congratulations on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran to you dear brother, and to the state and Muslim people of Iran. I am fully confident that existing fraternal and friendly relations between the governments and the people of the two neighbouring and Muslim countries, which are based on Islamic fraternity and common culture, will further expand and consolidate in the interest of our people and peace and security in the region and the world. Taking this opportunity once again I wish from God your excellency's health and success, along with the tranquility and prosperity of the fraternal people of Iran. Success comes from God. [signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA.

According to another report a similar congratulation message has been sent by esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, ISA minister of foreign affairs. Confidence was expressed in the message that existing fraternal and friendly relations between our countries will further expand and consolidate.

India

U.S. Administration Blamed for Fomenting Terrorism

BK1102132394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 94 p 1

[By Chandan Mitra]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 26—The Americans have a down-to-earth way of expressing incredulity when a person says something bizarre. They simply ask, "Is this man for real?" Washington- watchers in India are beginning to wonder whether the question isn't apt for the President of the United States himself.

The worrisome aspect of the scandal-prone Mr. Clinton, whose policies abroad have been stumbling from one banana peel to another, is that he is no longer merely simulating India-bashing. It would be dangerously naive to ascribe his weird words and deeds on South Asian subjects to his fabled ignorance and immaturity in

foreign affairs. The succession of provocative remarks on Kashmir by Mr. John Mallot, Ms. Robin Raphel and the President himself have never been retracted. The clarifications that have followed India's protests have only elaborated them further, confirming that the original assertions were fully intended.

Take the latest calumny on Punjab for instance. Who accused Mr. Clinton of having supported the idea of Khalistan? He didn't say it, nor was he charged with saying it. Yet, Washington has vociferously denied that the U.S. President had provided tacit support to the cause of an independent Khalistan. A Freudian slip there?

The U.S. clarification, however, makes it perfectly clear that the Clinton Administration will determinedly pursue the cause of "minority rights" in India. The "helpful" clarification patronisingly emphasises that minorities in India ought to have the same rights as the others.

Mr. Clinton would probably be shell-shocked to learn that unlike the U.S., minorities in India not only have but also exercise with gusto the same rights as the majority.

It was, therefore, in the fitness of things that India's most respected Sikh today, the Director-General of Punjab Police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, who has made the greatest contribution to the return of normalcy in that State, was the first to ridicule the U.S. President's observation.

Significantly, Mr. Gill's co-religionist, Youth Congress president Maninderjit Singh Bitta, is organising an all-Sikh demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to protest against Mr. Clinton's gratuitous observations. Such expressions of outrage by the Sikhs, who are the sword-arm of Indian civilisation, is the most appropriate response to Washington's mischief-making.

According to sources in the Ministry of External Affairs, the Government, on the other hand, is not keen to react too vigorously to Mr. Clinton's latest missive. "We have to learn to live with the immaturity of the present U.S. Administration", said a senior MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] official in a resigned tone.

Pointing out that Indo-U.S. relations have witnessed many ups and downs over the last four decades, the official underlined that it was during the Reagan and Bush tenure that New Delhi had reached a most satisfactory political understanding with Washington.

"The irony is that today, India's relations with the U.S. in every other sphere, especially in the economic arena, are excellent. It is tragic that we seem to be on different wavelengths on political issues," he added. Indian officials believe that an ill- informed U.S. President is being guided in his South Asia policy almost solely by a very junior official, his Oxford-mate Ms. Robin Raphel, whose personal predilections have lent a definite tilt towards Pakistan. The stuffing of the State Department's South Asia Desk with several officers who have served in Pakistan is only enhancing the U.S. bias, New Delhi feels.

South Block mandarins are also at pains to point out that contrary to the obtuse angularities of the Raphelites, the approach of senior U.S. officials like Mr. Peter Tarnoff has been very different. Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit established an excellent rapport with Mr. Tarnoff during his visits to Washington. But, sadly for India, it is Ms. Raphel who appears to have Mr. Clinton's ear. What amazes officials here is that the holder of the world's most powerful office has taken it upon himself to reply to letters from all and sundry. At the height of the Khalistan movement, several wealthy expatriate sponsors of terrorism used to write similar letters to Presidents Reagan and Bush. But they sent back only terse official acknowledgements, without bothering to pen elaborate, provocative replies like Mr. Clinton.

One explanation being offered for the U.S. President's letter to Congressman Gary A. Condit on "Sikh rights" is that Mr. Clinton is in desperate need for Congressional support at the moment. The Whitewatergate scandal is showing no signs of abating and fresh revelations of Mr. Clinton's alleged sexual peccadillos during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas, have left him highly vulnerable.

Demands for a Congressional inquiry into his alleged land deals and private life are snowballing. Recently, the inquiry demand has become bi-partisan and the President's own party, the Democrats, have joined the chorus.

Some U.S. Congressmen are well-known lobbyists for various secessionist outfits and often champion all kinds of dubious causes for a consideration. Being on the payroll of organisations like the "Council of Khalistan" etc., these Congressmen are expected to canvass their patrons' interests. In his present beleaguered state, President Clinton can hardly afford to antagonise any Congressman, even if his "cause" is suspect. Thus, if a few words of encouragement give a Congressman some pecuniary benefits, Mr. Clinton probably feels it is worth it. The larger international ramifications evidently do not bother him. At any rate, since India's-bashing is now state policy, such replies do not go against the diplomatic philosophy of the U.S. Administration either.

Keeping these exigencies in mind, India appears to have decided against rising to Mr. Clinton's bait, at least for the present. New Delhi has conveyed its strong feelings on the subject to Washington through its Ambassador, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, and does not intend to pursue the matter any more.

But there is all-round dismay that President Clinton's and Ms. Raphel's ill-considered statements are periodically boosting the morale of terrorists in Kashmir and the handful still left in Punjab. Ironically the very same Administration which frequently gets into a tizzy over the "terrorism" of Libya's Colonel Gaddafi and Somalia's General Aideed, is now directly responsible for fomenting terrorist depredations in democratic India.

But then, neither consistency, nor even adherence to self-proclaimed lofty principles of freedom, democracy and human rights, have ever been hallmarks of U.S. foreign policy.

Defense Ministry Warns of Possible Pakistani Attack

BK1002150894 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Feb 94 p 12

[By Sanjeev Miglani]

[Text] New Delhi—Pakistan may well resort to a military option against India, according to the threat perception of the Defence Ministry.

The "threat assessment" paper, released at a recent meeting of the consultative committee attached to the Defence Ministry, has drawn attention to the massive Pakistani military build up in recent years and termed it serious. Describing Pakistan as a major military threat, the note warns: "Its internal compulsions and the narrowing edge (of the Pakistani forces) vis-a-vis our armed forces may tempt it to resort to a military option at an opportune time. This could come about if it perceives India to be weak-willed and embroiled in internal turmoil."

The Defence Ministry points out that from the 1987 peak budgetary allocation for the Indian armed forces has been declining in real terms every year. It warns that economic measures cannot be continued indefinitely without leading to adverse effects on the capability of the Army.

Pakistan is spending 7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on defence, as against India's 2.5 per cent. The country's armed forces have been consistently inducting modern equipment and expanding their numbers, the note stresses. After acquiring 300 tanks from China, Pakistan is now shopping for more from the UK, France and other countries. It has increased its anti-tank capability with the induction of anti-tank missiles from China.

Similar acquisitions have been reported for Pakistani army aviation artillery, air defence artillery engineer and infantry units, the note says. It draws attention to the induction of surface-to-surface missiles with a range of approximately 300 kms, again purchased from China.

Force levels of the Pakistan army have gone up sharply with induction of two armoured brigades, four infantry brigades, two artillery divisions and one surface-to-surface missile brigade. Future plans of the army include induction of such force multipliers as electronic warfare capability, induction of AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control System], raising of army aviation units and specialised troops like "ski-troops" for Siachen operations. To top everything, it acquired nuclear capability.

The Defence ministry's threat perception on China is far less serious in the wake of the gradual warming of Sino-Indian relations. The Ministry feels China is unlikely to disturb status quo along the Indo-Tibetan border—at least till the turn of the century.

However, it notes that China's stepped-up arms sales to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] are an attempt to gain a strategic foothold in the South-East region. Among the activities of China which have a direct bearing on the security environment in the Indian sub-continent is the whopping increase in its defence budget—14.8 per cent—thus allowing for rapid modernisation. A Rapid Reaction Force has been created in each of China's military regions. A final point of concern—the country has upgraded its military infrastructure in Tibet, setting up vital communication channels.

Above everything else is China's comprehensive and full indigenous nuclear programme. The major elements of her nuclear arsenal include a stockpile of nuclear devices, multiple independent recovery vehicle capability, delivery systems, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, satellite communications and surveillance capability.

In her quest for superpower status, China is building up her economy, not only in the areas of agriculture, industry and science but also her defence structure, according to the Defence Ministry perception. In the regional context China expects to play a dominating role—initially in the Pacific Rim, gradually extending it to South East Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Iran

President Addresses Crowd on Anniversary of Revolution

LD1102102594 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his address to the millions strong gathering of the people at Azadi Square said that such a gathering showed that the insinuations by the enemies of the revolution were of no use.

"The extensive presence of the people here is a clear proof that the Islamic ummah (nation) is unwilling to ignore the reality of their own lives under the influence of the negativistic and discouraging whispers of the enemies," he told the crowd.

He said that the drop in oil prices was meant as measure to deal a severe blow to the Islamic republic. "The global arrogance, by creating the grounds for the drop in oil prices tried to hurt the Islamic Iran but did not succeed," he said, "today we produce the necessary raw material for our factories and foreign specialists (formerly in Iran) have been replaced with our own specialists."

He added that today Iranian universities were meeting the needs of the univeristy students and that in the field of telecommunications Iran was depending more and more on the indigenous human and technical resources.

He said that Iran was reaching the stage of self-sufficiency in the area of providing foodstuffs. "The farmers, the ranchers, the poultrymen and the fishermen of the Islamic Iran have all been able to meet the nutritional needs of the people to a great extent," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech Rafsanjani discussed the legacy of Imam Khomeyni, saying that the legacy of imam served as a blueprint for the success of the revolution in Iran. "The nation of Iran is determined to follow the path of our late imam and will do so with ever-increasing resoluteness," he said.

Accompolishments, Obstacles Reviewed

LD1102211894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1755 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Azadi Square, Tehran, on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] May God keep you. May God protect you dear ones, you brave Islamic community. Thank you very much for your kindness and good words. To calm the crowd, let us all chant a slogan in honor of the Prophet.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is truly a shame that our dear Imam [Khomeyni] and martyrs cannot be with us today to see this splendid scene of the extensive presence of the Islamic ummah in Freedom Square. Of course, their blessed spirits are with us and they can witness this glorious gathering, these enthusiastic sentiments and this historical epic.

I can see in the surrounding areas, in all the streets leading up to this square—as far as the eye can see, there are crowds hastening and rushing toward the square, chanting slogans, although they know they will not arrive in time for the ceremony. They keep coming, however, just to say, we are here just as always. I would like to thank them most humbly and I would like to praise their intelligence, awareness, loyalty and sincerity.

Undoubtedly, today, on 22 Bahman, beginning the 16th year of this glorious revolution's life, hundreds of millions of eyes are gazing at this spot from throughout the world and, tonight, hundreds of millions of people will sit around their television sets to see images of this splendid gathering and to renew, once again, their hopes in the future of Islam's revolution and to revitalize themselves for greater action and jihad. And our enemies are watching the streets of Tehran with anxiety and with the false hope that, with the passage of time, our people will become alienated from the revolution or indifferent to it. God willing, they will take this hope to their graves.

The people can sense the presence of the revolution in their lives with all their existence and this tangible sense that they have of the effects of the revolution will not allow them to forget it, even though the new generation does not have any memory of the past and cannot compare the post-revolution society with the pre-revolution one. However, it has heard from others and from history and it knows. And, even if it does not know about the past, it can compare its own society with other societies. They can compare this society where the names of heaven, the Koran and the lofty commandments of Islam fill the air with their perfume with those other societies where blasphemy, atheism, apathy, and secular systems invite the people to be immoral and unjust, to discriminate, to submit to sensual pleasures and ungodly ways. The new generation, too, is suitably equipped to make this comparison, assessment and judgement.

Sixteen years ago our nation which had gathered in this very Azadi Square and streets leading to the cemetery and waited to see its imam had not seen the present days. This is the main difference between the young generation then and the young generation now. At that time they looked to the future and today they see the manifestations of the divine promises. Many of the manifestations of dualism, oppression, corruption, and tyranny which ruled over our society have gone. The manifestations that had turned everywhere, the television, radio, school, university, seaside, street, movie theater, theater, newspapers and magazines to centers of vice, lust and corruption of the youth. All things were contaminated with the corrupt western culture. But wherever they look today they see the Koran, Islam, call to justice, propagation of virtues and prohibition of vice, prayers and justice.

The furthest we go from the capital and move into the heart of villages and the border regions, the affects of the revolution are better felt. There they know that all services once used only in the capital and several large cities are now provided to all parts of the country. Schools, electricity, drinking water, roads for transport, telephone and post are being provided to distant villages and places in the deserts in the same fashion that that they are provided for the cities. They see that the country's means are being used in the more distant places for development and construction. In the past few days people have heard that 1,600 development projects in deprived areas and thousands of more development projects across the country have started operations. The radio and television and the press have reported on some of these but the people who live in those areas feel their effect. The further we go from the capital, the people are happier, fresher, more hopeful, more participant, and more loyal to the revolution.

With such background and realities the news of imperialism is wasting its time uselessly. The more they propagate the less they achieve. The more they seek to blackmail through propaganda the less the result. In fact on the contrary, the false propaganda reminds the people of the world—who might gradually forget the revolution if left to themselves—to study our revolution and thus we add to the supporters of the revolution every day across the world, despite all the dreadful propaganda. They have left no accusation and lie. For years they

accused us of terrorism but the world does not believe it. The people across the world can see the hands involved in terrorism. People know the victims of international terrorism. In Iran people have seen and buried enough victims of terrorism and today continue to visit the grave of their martyrs for prayers. How could they believe the American accusations that Iranians are terrorists and support terrorists in the world.

They accuse Iran of violating human rights. But their own hands are in the the people's blood up to their elbows and their whole being is involved with usurping human rights. Bosnia, Palestine, Somalia, and other places are witness to this claim of ours. If today they raise any issue regarding social justice and global peace, the people of the world will not believe them when they witness the Bosnia-Herzegovina case. But the people of the world see that truly the Islamic Republic declares that we are ready to despatch 10,000 soldiers—who will take their lives in their hands—to Bosnia at our won expense so as to establish peace and consolidate security but they do not let us in because they know we will be supporting righteousness and peace over there, which is something that they do not seek.

The claim of human rights violation against Iran falls on deaf ears among nations; although the media and mercenary news agencies propagate such claims. That fails to have any effect on our nation. All their propaganda arrows have hit granite. They have begun an extensive propaganda onslaught so that they might make our nation despair about the future and become discouraged. But even there the palpable effects of the revolution do not allow them to succeed. They embark on economic sanctions, put pressure on our income resources. They wish to damage us—at the expense of their own friends—by making oil prices plummet. But tomorrow they will see that even those actions will bring about a reverse result; something that is quite palpable today. The world will notice that such words are no longer of any effect.

In these 15 years—and specifically in its First Development Plan—the Iranian nation succeeded in carrying out infrastructural work in such a way that the oil price fall can no longer inflict any general damage to this country and or to the revolution since plans have been made to replace oil revenue by various means. At one time we needed to sell oil and import goods for all our consumer requirements so that our people could live. But those days have now passed. Today our factories take the main part of their raw materials—from steel, copper, lead, and zinc to aluminum—from what we produce ourselves. And our other factories take the main part of their requirements from our own petrochemicals. And our laborers today work with indigenous, Iranian and national materials. Our specialist forces have taken the place of foreign advisors and experts to such an extent that in no arena does our nation feel the need for any foreign expert force. And if there is a special case there are adequate numbers of those who would take a wage, work, and take orders. The Iranian factories do not need to make use of arrogant forces.

More than 90 percent of the country's consumer goods are being made in our own factories and workshops. Our nation, our farmers, our cattleowners, our poulterers, and our fishermen have been able to meet the society's required food supply by their own efforts and with the aid of their system and government. And export a great deal as well.

They thought that, with all the machinery in our possession, we would be dependent on spare parts. With the extensive measures that were taken in relation to making and designing spare parts inside the country, according to a very firm policy, during the past five years, today, we do not need to import any spare parts for a great deal of our industrial equipment.

Our universities are rapidly supplying our required work force. The dependence of our communications on foreign resources has been reduced to a very small amount.

They can indulge in as much propaganda as they like to dishearten our people, but our people can see how things are for themselves. They saw how their regime pursued two very difficult programs at the same time: one, economic adjustment, and, two, economic development; giving priority to infrastructural and cultural tasks. They saw how it travelled this path with success. They can also see how our own neighbors are having so many difficulties in carrying out their policies of economic adjustment and of changing their structures.

Can this have any reason other than that our people are present on the stage, are vigilant, are aware, support their regime, endure the problems that result from this revolution treading along its difficult path by itself, obey the eminent leader of their revolution [Khamene'i], are loyal to the path of their eminent late imam, value the blood shed by their martyrs and draw inspiration from the dear families of martyrs, those missing in action, the war disabled and the former POWs and from the proud POWs and war disabled themselevs, who are the torches guiding this country. And the hizbollah forces throughout the country, in villages, towns, factories, schools, universities, offices—everyone can see among themselves everywhere these intelligent, dear and determined supporters of the revolution.

They can see the armed forces [crowd interrupts chanting slogans]—thank you for your good words and sentiments. They see the Armed Forces, the Revolution Guards' Corps, the proud Mobilization forces, the Law Enforcement Forces and the other sectors at the service and in great support of the revolution. This great body is participating in all villages and cities across the country. Everywhere you will see something similar to the Azadi square where intelligent and enlightened people have come to express their loyalty, strength, and steadfastness. Reports I have received since this morning indicate that across the country people are using their time, effort, and voice at the service of the revolution and Islam today.

Your participation will make the faltering tongues of the world arrogance stutter even more for sometime and will shut them up. And even if they scream and yell it will only hit a mountain that will return it to them. I sincerely thank your honors and the dear students who carried out such a sweet song so well in this great square and all those who organized and managed the good programs for the Ten Days of Dawn celebrations. May God keep you. God willing we will meet again in the other venues of the revolution. May God's blessings and peace be upon you.

Nine-Point Resolution Issued

LD1102120494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] A nine-point resolution was issued at the end of the rally, which was endorsed by the people's chants of: God is great, and Khamene'i is the leader.

The resolution praises God almighty for the victory of the blessed Islamic revolution in Iran, led by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—and also praises the self- sacrificing devotees, particularly of the Islamic revolution, and the martyrs of the imposed war. The resolution mentions: Now that the bright sun of Velayat, the pious chosen guide, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, is leading this great nation, we consider as a good omen the auspicious simultaneity of the spring of the Koran, the holy month of Ramadan, with the start of the blessed 16th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. We announce that we consider the wise and reviving guidelines of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—God's blessings upon him—as the fundamental and inviolable part of the domestic and foreign policy of the holy system of the Islamic Republic. We will not cease our endeavors to the last of our breath, until the aspirations of that great imam have materialized.

The marchers stressed the unconditional obedience of the Iranian nation to the guidelines of the eminent leader—an obedience that they considered as a religious obligation and as the only way of salvation for the Islamic ummah—and expressed their firm support for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the serving government, the Majles, and the judiciary. Furthermore, they asked the officials who are serving in the country's three powers to use all their abilities to secure social justice, eliminate deprivation and shortcomings, prevent corruption in the administrative organs, discourage a propensity towards luxuries and waste, and finally to hasten the process of the country's reconstruction and development. They also asked the officials to take serious steps toward rejuvenation of the principle of enjoinment of virtue, prohibition of vice. It is a principle that constitutes a solid point of reliance for the Islamic revolution.

The resolution also stresses the need for the officials to pay greater attention to the material and spiritual needs of youth and to give greater value to the Basiji culture, which is a great source of support for the Islamic revolution. The resolution, moreover, pays tribute to the lofty status of the martyrs and the eminent families of the martyrs, the disabled, released POWs, the Baijees, and all the selfless devotees of the Islamic revolution. It asks the serving government to consider the needs of these beloved ones in its comprehensive and long-term plans.

In another part of the resolution, the marchers reiterated that they still considered the U.S. Government as the great Satan, responsible for all the anti-Islamic plots and atrocities, and the main supporter of the aggressive acts of international Zionism. They emphasized the need for confrontation against the conspiracies of the great Satan.

Furthermore, the marchers expressed their support for all authentic Islamic movements and condemned the dastardly crimes of the Serbs and the silence adopted by international forums toward such crimes. They also condemned the compromise between 'Arafat and Tel Aviv and asked the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to end the process of fratricide as soon as possible and to put all their efforts behind reconstructing their Islamic homeland and countering the conspiracies of the enemies.

Commentary Notes Clinton-Yeltsin Talks on Bosnia

NC1202122894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Incoming reports indicate that after three days of efforts, U.S. President Bill Clinton was finally able to set up a telephone contact with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin yesterday and discuss the NATO ultimatum to the aggressor Serbs who are violating Security Council resolutions.

Russia, which is considered to be an ally and supporter of the Serbs, does not have a positive view on the recent NATO ultimatum and wanted this issue to be discussed by the Security Council. However, apparently the 30-minute telephone conversation between Clinton and Yeltsin has reduced the extent of the differences of opinion between the two sides on the West's decision and on the ultimatum. After the telephone conversation, Moscow stated that the United States and Russia have agreed on a division of tasks among the conflicting sides in Bosnia that will eventually help to overcome the Bosnian crisis.

Before the Clinton-Yeltsin discussion, Russia's UN representative had called for an extraordinary Security Council session. However, after the telephone conversation, he rectified the objective behind such a session and stated that what Russia has in mind is the dispute over the disarmament of Sarajevo.

The truth is that currently not only the Russian Government but the Russian opposition parties have adopted a negative stance on the ultimatum. Some political experts believe that even though Yeltsin's flexibility toward Clinton stems from his interest in Washington's support for Moscow, politically it will lead to the weakening of Yeltsin's position at home. Meanwhile, what Yeltsin attaches hopes to is what the rest of the world feels: the West's deceitful stance, which weakens the possibility of a NATO attack on the Serbs.

The West's policy of double standards on international crises and differences in its acts and deeds on Bosnia have reached an intolerable point. In tandem with the West's warning to the Serbs and the setting of a deadline for the withdrawal of their heavy arms from around Sarajevo, the leader of the aggressive and criminal Serbs was able to gain UN agreement on forming an investigating commission to determine which side was responsible for the shocking massacre at Sarajevo market. The UN's agreement with this request is tantamount to the acquittal of the Serbs in this rare crime.

Actually, the West has granted the Serbs a concession vis-a-vis the ultimatum against them. Meanwhile, with the mitigation of pressures on the Muslims with the evacuation of positions around Sarajevo, they have added military pressures on Muslims in other parts of Bosnia. For this reason, the Bosnian representative at the Geneva talks disagreed with efforts to separate the fate of the Bosnian capital from the fate of other regions and stated that he wants a comprehensive agreement on Bosnia.

At a time when the European Community and its representatives in the Geneva talks, as well as the Croat and Serb sides, are seeking to dismember Bosnia, it is only the Bosnian Muslims who continue their jihad for preserving the integrity of the country.

President's Brother Resigns Post Heading Radio, TV

NC1202172194 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12 (AFP)—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's brother has resigned as head of Iran's state radio and television (IRIB), the daily KEYHAN reported Saturday.

Mohammad Hashemi, who was to leave his post on Saturday after 12 years, is to be replaced by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani, it said.

The head of the ministry's publication bureau, Ahmad Pur-Nejati, has been chosen to serve as interim culture minister, the paper added.

IRIB has come under mounting conservative criticism.

Parliament's culture subcommittee issued a lengthy report in November which said many programmes had nothing to do with Islam or the Islamic revolution, and spread "un-Islamic" ideas, particularly among the young.

The report prompted a strong reaction from Hashemi, who accused the hardliners of promoting "stone-age" thinking. The conservatives hit back accusing IRIB's head of defaming parliament.

Newspapers said in December that Hashemi could face legal proceedings.

IRIB has been under the direct supervision of the country's spiritual guide since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

New Director General Appointed

LD1302112294 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i appointed 'Ali Larijani to the post of director general of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) here Sunday.

The appointment was made for a period of five years. Larijani was also appointed as the member of the High Council of the Cultural Revolution.

Larijani who, prior to his new assingment served as the minister of culture and islamic guidance, replaces Mohammad Hashemi who run IRIB for 13 years.

Khamene'i Announces Changes

LD1302134794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the cause of Muslims, today in a decree appointed Dr. 'Ali Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, as the head of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as a member of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution for a term of five years. The full text of the eminent leader's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Now that through divine blessing the people of Iran are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the glorious revolution with pride and a sense of victory; now that the people and the government—united and steadfast—have surpassed a long, adventurous march full of victories as well as difficulties; now that the serving government, through a great struggle and by taking the initiative, has removed the major obstacles in the face of economic progress and national growth and development—thereby paving the way toward construction and general welfare with a speed suited to the conditions of the revolution, the general conditions of the country require the publicity mechanism of the Voice and Vision to take on new policies in line with the nation's progress in all fields in order to balance the cultural climate of the

nation and the accelerating trend of construction and general growth and development with the bases of the revolution and the fundamental principles of Islam. Furthermore, in order to confront the propaganda and cultural onslaught of arrogance and its lackeys, the new policies should widen the scope of the media's struggle in the trench of explaining, deepening, and honoring the glorious principles of the Islamic revolution, as well as in the trench of explaining the self-sacrificing efforts of the country's officials, the three branches of the state, judiciary, executive, legislative, especially the hard working and relentless judicial branch, with new, progressive, and rational methods and through a great and vigilant jihad.

Taking into account the aforementioned, and expressing my thanks and gratitude for the relentless and continuous efforts of the esteemed Mohammad Hashemi, who during his term as the official in charge of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran—particularly during the imposed Iran-Iraq war—carried out great and all-encompassing efforts in administrating this sensitive and important institution, I appoint the esteemed Dr. 'Ali Larijani, who is one of the outstanding scientific and cultural figures of the country and who has a proud, revolutionary background, as well as a background of cabinet responsibilities—and an individual known for his devotion, piety, and cultural and artistic experiences—as the head of the Voice and Vision, as well as a member of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution for a term of five years.

It is expected that he will receive the cooperation of intelligent colleagues and revolutionary innovators from within the organization and attract prominent personalities from outside to produce a new plan and a productive agenda to utilize the organization's vast resources, turn it into a base for the development of ideas, culture, and art, and a center for the guidance of Iran's Muslim people and others who are eager to hear the voice of revolutionary Iran. A place for the presentation of the nation's achievements in different fields of life, science, politics, art, education, and other fields.

Here I deem it necessary to thank the esteemed Supervisory Council of the IRIB, comprising representatives from the three powers of judicial, legislative, and executive for their valuable efforts, and while wishing its scholarly and worthy members to cooperate with the management of the Voice and Vision, announce the termination of the Council.

The salient points, which should be observed in the great new plan are as follows:

The operation of the Voice and Vision organization should be aimed at achieving better quality in all its programs. The quantitative expansion should be put in second place. Nevertheless, the necessary nationwide transmission to all corners and rural areas of the country should be given priority.

The structure of the organization should be reviewed and the necessary changes should be made to its style and productivity.

Cooperation with university scholars and scholastic circles should be used to raise scientific and social issues and present new ideas to the public.

In Islamic discussions, attention should be paid to the quality, depth, and excellence of the issues. Weak and ambiguous issues and personal tastes should be avoided. In order to achieve this, wise and calculated cooperation should be made with religious seminaries and scholars, particularly the esteemed and prominent scholars of the Qom Seminary.

In general, Voice and Vision should become an open school for the presentation of the realities of pure Muhammadan Islam, peace be upon him and his scion, and the instructions of the Ahl al-Beit [family of the prophet], peace be upon them, in a noble and proper way.

In the production of artistic programs, cooperation should be made with the country's cultural foundations, such as the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic publicity organization, and artistic circles, in order to make the most use of them.

The dissemination of information, which is one of the most important tasks of the Voice and Vision, should find a better system, better speed, better editorial judgement, as well as intelligible and correct language, more than before. The Voice and Vision must use correct Persian, and its language should set standards. Mispronunciation and misreading must be eliminated immediately. The Voice and Vision must be the teacher of the sweet, clear, and powerful Persian language. A number of steps have been taken in his context, but they should be complemented.

Artistic programs on the Voice and Vision should become sweet and attractive, with the most sumptuous theatrical arts containing social, political, and ethical messages in this all-encompassing medium. Light, empty, and misleading programs lacking in artistic quality, which are sometimes very expensive to produce, must be banned forthwith.

The broadcast of banal and sensual music, especially those types of music that in this branch of the arts lack national identity and Iranian principles, must be avoided. Music can be both permitted [halal] and banned [haram]. Its permitted type should be recognized and used correctly following the clear instructions of the late Imam [Khomeyni], sanctified be his dust. Genuine Iranian arts, which suit the spiritual make up and instincts of our people, should be used more in this context.

In all the programs, the general trend should be toward confronting the propaganda, cultural and news onslaught of arrogance. This important principle must be adhered

to not only in news and reports, but also in scientific, social, and political programs—especially in artistic and entertaining programs such as plays, one-off dramas, and serials. This point should be correctly clarified to all the employees of radio and television. The alien, attacking culture affects the mind and actions of the people more through plays and entertaining programs than through face-to-face talks. This unwanted effect must be vigilantly and rationally stopped.

On the whole, the Voice and Vision, as the great late Imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, had highlighted, should be a university for all in which religion, ethics, Islamic values, and the ways and methods of life, as well as new developments in the world of science and politics—and new and pioneering thoughts—are taught in a clear language comprehensible to all sectors of society, so that every one, from those with simple minds to great thinkers and outstanding individuals, can manage to benefit from the radio and television programs to the best of their ability, and so that everyone can become fulfilled by the programs' great bounty.

Programs must be understandable and useful for all people, but must not, in any way, be banal and frivolous. A Voice and Vision suitable for Islamic Iran should gradually take shape in which intelligence, ability, and a general leaning toward culture, politics, and science exists side by side with subtlety, taste, and talent, and be accompanied by a spirit of reconstruction and recreation of a great and proud Iran, natural to this ancient, yet young nation.

Apart from all that, the share of listeners beyond the borders—millions of people who in various states and from various nations have set their sights to Iran and the voice of the Islamic revolution—should be prominently considered. External programs should be completely free from banality, repetitiveness, and frivolity and truly depict the Islamic Iran. The carrying out of this heavy duty—some of whose preliminaries have been prepared by the former hardworking management and officials, and some other sections of which must be prepared by the current wise and intellectual manager—no doubt requires the cooperation of all the connected establishments, especially the cabinet and the Islamic Consultative Majles.

I call upon the respected deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles and respected cabinet members, especially the president who is a man of knowledge and is an expert in Islamic lore, to offer any assistance regarding the budget and other resources for the move that the Voice and Vision needs today. I expect the scholars, experts, artists, and other strata, which are capable of somehow getting this crucial organization to its deserved place, to cooperate with its management. Undoubtedly such progress cannot be achieved overnight. The important thing is that such a direction is pursued. I beseech God Almighty success and guidance for the respected head of the organization and the others involved, and hope that all come under the auspices of the pure prayers of God's supreme deputy [Vali al-Allah al-'Azam], may our souls be sacrificed for him, and the assistance of that great one.

Peace be upon all the believing brothers.

[Signed] Sayyed Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 12 February 1994

Daily Terms NATO 'Ultimatum' 'Propaganda Maneuver'

LD1302105894 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—A Persian daily Sunday commented on the 10-day ultimatum given by the NATO to the Serbs and termed it as a propaganda maneuver to deceive the world public opinion.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) issued a 10-day ultimatum calling the Serbs to withdraw their heavy artillery from around Sarajevo within a radius of 20 kms.

In its editorial, 'JOMHURI ESLAMI' said that on the first encounter, the statement was expected to be a response to the demands of the world public opinion to end atrocities against Bosnian Muslims.

However, a careful study of the context of the statement shows that once again NATO is following the policy of procrastination and is only posing as a decisive organization. Furthermore, it wants to make the world believe that it has made an effective and resolute decision.

The evidence available indicates to the fact that the main objective of the statement is mere publicity and that NATO would never enter into the scene against the Serbs who are carrying out the same mission favored by the U.S. and Europe.

It said that the U.S. and Europe were making efforts to provide further grounds to facilitate implementation of the mission by the Serbs.

NATO's goal is to pretend it has managed to take a stance against the Serbs while under the status quo the United States and Europe are working on an agreement to dismember Bosnia.

It turned to the statements issued by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), calling for a severe stand by the Security Council and the NATO against Serbs, and said that NAM has never shown decisiveness at decision-making level.

If NAM and the OIC use their deterrent levers to settle the Bosnian crisis, they have the necessary potentials, the daily noted, adding that this will be materialized in practice when all members have unity of expression and determination.

Majles Speaker Comments

LD1302152394 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] The Majles had its open session today chaired by speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri.

At the session, Mr. Nateq-Nuri thanked the nation for their wise and active presence at the Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies that culminated in massive and magnificent marches on February 11.

The massive participation of our sensible people at the marches, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said, once again proved to the world that the Iranian Muslim people have remained loyal to the revolution's causes and principles and are diligent in safeguarding its achievement and values. The Majlis speaker then urged the officials to serve this brave and heroic nation more than before.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri further described as a deceitful scheme NATO's ultimatum to Serbs to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, adding that inwardly NATO, Serbs, and Croats are allies.

The head of the legislative branch later expressed hope that Muslims would no longer be deceived by their enemies' conspiracies and, with greater resolve than in the past, continue to defend the oppressed Bosnian people.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then appreciated the stance of the Non-aligned Movement in backing the Bosnian Muslims.

Commentary Examines U.S. Role, Aims in Bosnia

LD1302151494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1107 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Role in the Bosnian Crisis"]

[Text] After setting a 10-day deadline for Bosnian Serb forces—which was aimed at removing the Serbs' heavy weapons from around the besieged city of Sarajevo—U.S. White House officials and Western circles have been overwhelmed by a wave of concern. Those concerns have arisen at a time when, after a threat by NATO to carry out aerial attacks against Serbian positions, the Serb paramilitaries said that they would defend themselves against any aerial attack and they might take action against the 12,000 UN soldiers in Bosnia.

Parallel with those threats, the U.S. and British Governments recommended that their representatives in the Serb-Montenegro alliance should leave because of the growing unrest that has been created as a result of the NATO threat. It seems that the U.S. and British response—which has resulted in their recalling their representatives from Belgrade—will end the American pretense of saying that the policy regarding the Bosnian crisis has been thought out. Also, this issue faces NATO's role in the current crisis with ambiguity.

Nevertheless, political experts believe that military intervention in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has only a deterrent meaning and is taken to mean psychological pressure on the warring sides; especially since there is neither any oil in the area nor has the area much geopolitical significance for Western Europe and America. Nevertheless, it is predicted that if NATO embarks on an aerial attack against the Serbs it will undoubtedly be taken as a measure to enhance the West's global image and to legitimize its action.

In fact the West's irresponsible rationalizing and the lack of serious support for the Muslims against the events in Bosnia have resulted in the true face of the Western forums and their evil objectives to become more evident than ever. It is clear for all that America assesses Bosnia, just like other world issues, from the angle of its own national interests. In the case of the Bosnia- Herzegovina conflict, the United States has adopted three different positions. At the beginning, Washington was playing the role of a neutral observer, thinking that the Yugoslav crisis was simply a European problem. With the passage of time and the spread of war in the Balkans, Washington then showed an inclination to play a political role in the crisis.

However, now we can see a change in the United States' point of view. The American Government intends to increase its role in the Bosnia peace negotiations to force the Muslims of that country to accept the disintegration of Bosnia and lose control of Sarajevo. Now, under the guise of NATO, the U.S. Government is not showing the slightest inclination toward a fair resolution to the differences, and, if NATO implements its threats on air strikes, the region will enter a period of protracted and useless ground conflict.

Therefore, the surest way to stop the time killing policy of the West in the Bosnian crisis is to give the responsibility of defending Bosnian civilians to the rightful owners of that country, namely the Bosnian Government; so that under those conditions, the Muslims can manage to take effective steps in defending their obvious and usurped rights and in the final condemnation of the Serb aggressors.

Commentary Notes Clinton 'Threats' Against North Korea

NC1202120394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton announced yesterday that if North Korea prevents an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] of its nuclear installations, economic sanctions will be

imposed. These remarks by the U.S. President came exactly one week after North Korea called the United States a paper tiger and stated that it will be the loser if another war breaks out in the Korean subcontinent.

Despite agreements in principle between the United States and North Korea last month, during the past couple of weeks a strong propaganda war has been waged by the two countries. Pyongyang believes that on the pretext that North Korea is manufacturing nuclear weapons, the United States is engineering plots to cause a war with North Korea. From Pyongyang's point of view, even though North Korea has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact and has allowed the IAEA to inspect North Korean nuclear installations, the IAEA—influenced by some countries—has acted contrary to its main duties and is aiming imaginary accusations at North Korea for political reasons.

At any rate, for 10 months the topic of North Korea's nuclear arms has been a gauge to measure the pressure in relations between Washington and Pyongyang, and this pressure has fluctuated from threats to encouragements.

The recent U.S. threat to impose economic sanctions on North Korea can be studied on two levels. The first is the level of bilateral relations, in which case the sanctions will not be very effective. The second is the level of collective acts, in which case the United States will face two problems. The first problem is that it is difficult to attract the attention of countries, especially the permanent Security Council members and specifically China, on this issue. The second problem is that if these threats materialize, the crisis in U.S.-North Korean relations will enter a dangerous phase because if North Korea is put under economic pressures, it may resort to acts that will have unfavorable consequences.

Aliyev's Visit to Turkey, Moscow's Approach Assessed

NC1002153994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary: "President Aliyev's Visit to Turkey"]

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev headed a high-ranking delegation to Ankara yesterday. His visit was the first to that country after he was elected president. Drawing attention to the not-so-warm relations between Aliyev and Ankara during the past year, political commentators have assessed his visit as rather important. According to the commentators, Baku wishes to improve its relations with the regional countries, establish a balance in its relations with Azerbaijan's neighbors, and benefit from Turkey's economic resources.

However, it will be recalled that the Turkish Government maintained its support for former President Elchibey in Azerbaijan even after he was ousted. In view of that, several observers are convinced that Geydar Aliyev is trying to strengthen his position by using the existing opportunities in the region to promote the interests of his country, which is in a state of war. So considering the long-standing hostilities between Turkey and Armenia, Ankara's support for Aliyev is of special importance.

Meanwhile, the ousting of Turkey's ally in Azerbaijan, that is, the removal of Abulfaz Elchibey from power, inflicted a blow to Ankara's policy on the Caucasus. Obviously, Turkey wishes to increase its influence in the region through intensive diplomatic initiatives. In view of that, Ankara has hinted that it is inclined to melt the ice between Turkey and Azerbaijan by adopting an understanding approach to Baku's requests in various fields.

Furthermore, the political commentators believe that Turkey is worried by the success the nationalists achieved in the elections in Russia and is convinced that the Caucasus may be a source of threat to its security in the future. In view of that, it wishes to strengthen its relations with Azerbaijan in order to safeguard its long-term interests. However, considering the possibility that Russia, which regards the Caucasus as a strategic region, may seriously react to Turkey's increasing influence, Ankara wishes to achieve its objective through economic and cultural exchanges and not through political and military initiatives.

Meanwhile, Moscow, which adopted a sensitive approach on Turkey's influence in Azerbaijan and the support it gave to Abulfaz Elchibey in the past, is seriously watching the progress of the relations between Ankara and Baku with a view to safeguarding its interests in the region.

Considering all that, President Aliyev's visit to Ankara is very important, as assessed by President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, and Speaker of the Turkish National Assembly Husamettin Cindoruk. In fact, it is regarded as a new landmark in the relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Palestinian-Israeli-Cairo Agreement Viewed

NC1002202994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] After two days of intensive talks in Cairo, the PLO leader and the foreign minister of the Zionist entity yesterday signed a bilateral agreement on security issues. Although nothing has been disclosed about the details of these talks, the statements made by the Palestinian and Israeli parties demonstrate that the main differences and pending issues remain unresolved. Reaching a solution will require very prolonged talks. The latest 'Arafat-Peres meeting, the third over the past two months, focused on extricating bilateral talks on the Gaza-Jericho agreement from an impasse.

It is well-known that Israeli stalling prevented implementation of the agreement's clauses, which should have taken effect on 13 December 1993. Israel put forward its own interpretations and analyses of the clauses of the agreement, which practically blocked its implementation. Political observers believe that despite the fact that both Palestinian and Israeli parties declared that they reached a limited accord, Zionist officials have reneged on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement by putting forward new interpretations of its articles. Under the latest agreement the Zionists imposed Israeli military supervision of the crossing points and border points in Gaza and Jericho with the participation of Palestinian police. This means that Zionist forces will continue to impose their control over the self-rule areas, albeit with a Palestinian police cover. According to the Gaza-Jericho agreement signed in Washington, control of the crossing points, bridges, and border points separating Gaza and Jericho from Egypt and Jordan is the responsibility of the interim government in the self-rule area. From the outset of the negotiations, the Palestinian party emphasized the Palestinians' sole right to control the crossing and border posts along with other tasks in their occupied homeland. The Zionist entity, as usual, resorted to blatant stalling, refusing to implement the agreement's clauses on the scheduled date in order to impose conditions on the Palestinians and to shake the PLO leader's standing among the Palestinian people. These complications have further darkened the prevailing pessimistic atmosphere in the occupied lands regarding the agreement and the possibility of implementing it. The Palestinians, who were at first enthusiastic and pinned hopes on the United States, have now begun to wonder if it is really possible to regain their usurped rights through diplomatic means from the usurper Zionist entity.

Resistance Leader Condemns Regime's Policies

NC1202154694 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Address by the "leader of the Iranian resistance" Mas'ud Rajavi on the eve of the 11 February anniversary—recorded]

[Excerpts] Compatriots; resistant and noble people of Iran:

Fifteen years have elapsed since the victory of the antimonarchical revolution and the domination of the reactionary government of Khomeyni. Our people reached the point where they could stand the dictatorship of the shah's puppet government no longer and rose up and succeeded in toppling it with their magnificent revolution of 11 February 1979. The objective was to establish freedom, independence, and the peoples' sovereignty over the country's capital and national resources so they would be used for the prosperity and happiness of the people of Iran. They also wanted equal opportunity for Iranian youth so they would grow in a society based on justice and the rule of law. [passage omitted]

In truth, how many ordeals we have endured! There is no doubt that regardless of how much we speak of the cruelty and crimes of Khomeyni, his treachery and destruction, it still does not do it justice. The destruction of the social structure, and of institutions of economic development can be appraised on the basis of statistics regarding the Khomeyni era. We have regressed by 50 years and perhaps we have lost the opportunity for growth and development to the same extent. Can we even truthfully know at what juncture Iran and its people stand? Certainly not. Khomeyni's crimes and treachery are, of course, limitless. [words indistinct]

For all these 15 years, the conditions in Iran have been like the two sides of a coin. We have always been and still are in the crucible of a test—a contest for the existence or destruction of a nation, one historic for our great nation. In this turbulent era of upheaval, [words indistinct]. On the one side of the coin is the reality of the tyranny and devastation inflicted by the Khomeyni regime. On the other side of the coin is the sacrificial resistance of a wounded nation, unprecedented in today's world, without any exaggeration. The passage of time will highlight both sides of the coin clearly and more precisely and will continue to do so. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, if we view in retrospect the dimensions of the treachery and destruction of the Khomeyni regime, we were the ones in the past, the Iranian resistance who [words indistinct]. The performance of the clerics is so black and disgraceful that they are forced to admit it themselves or to complain about domestic shortages which in some way come about during the course of their domestic strife and tussling. In any case, the regime has itself divulged the extent of the devastation it has caused.

The dimensions of the economic bankruptcy of the regime is such that they themselves state openly that all the oil income for the next year will be less than the amount of the arrears on foreign debts. The estimated income from oil sales is less than or [words indistinct] the calculated foreign debts of the regime is approximately (?$50) billion. [passage omitted]

Details of the tortures inflicted by the Khomeyni regime cannot be covered in this brief speech. Only after these filthy fiends are toppled will the goings on in their torture chambers be revealed. Hands amputated, eyes gouged out, stonings to death, people hurled from heights—these are only a few (?examples) of the 15 years of heinous atrocities perpetrated by the Khomeyni regime. As regards thievery, pillage, misappropriating public property, depositing oil income in private accounts, the clerics have (?surpassed) criminals. [passage omitted]

The people of Zahedan, Mashhad, and Arak [words indistinct] rose up against the brutal clerics, demanding the freedom of the people. The regime's agents are

becoming helpless in the face of these cities and their residents. At the same time the axis of the sources of emulation and the leadership of the regime is atrophying and presents a decrepit and tattered (?image) more than ever before and is becoming weaker and weaker. According to Khomeyni, the Velayat-e Faqih should be a source of emulation before anything else.

We heard that the head of the regime's judiciary and its executions, the cleric Yazdi, announced that [words indistinct] and they can express support but not intervene in judicial affairs. The sources of emulation can speak on the (?minor points) of how to offer prayers, but they should not enter politics. How strange that the fate of the Khomeyni regime is such that God has inflicted his curse on them and each one says something different and thus appears more and more ludicrous. One day Khomeyni said that we would fight the war for 20 years, until victory; Jerusalem through Karbala'! What spurious slogans! Later he said: I made a mistake and I have taken the chalice of poison! [passage indistinct]

The people and the popular forces should know that [words indistinct] that the elite of Iran's offspring are in the ranks of the National Liberation Army and are endowed with the essence of heroism and combat capabilities. They have always said that this regime must be toppled. God willing, it will be, under the aegis of (?their efforts).

Envoy Interviewed on Ties With Czech Republic

AU1102150594 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 10 Feb 94 p 9

[Interview with Rasul Movahedian-'Attar, ambassador to the Czech Republic, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [DENNI TELEGRAF] What is the situation regarding partnership with the Czech Republic?

[Movahedian-'Attar] The Czech Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran are traditional and amicable partners. As you know, political and economic relations between the two countries began to flourish after 1930 and have continued to grow during the subsequent decades. Many Czech businessmen and enterprises, including Skoda, entered the Iranian market before World War II and gradually acquired a good name and reputation for themselves.

The two countries import all sorts of goods and commodities from each other and they have been technical partners for a long time. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has prepared a number of large and small projects worth almost $0.5 billion, is now considered to be the Czech Republic's most major technical partner. It is to be expected that in the future the volume of these projects could exceed more than $1.0 billion. The largest Czech project in Iran is the construction of an aluminum plant worth more than $300 million.

It is also apparent that the Czech Republic—in view of its current economic circumstances—would like to be active in the Iranian arms market. I think that a more substantial partnership is rather unlikely in this regard, because Iran—which is giving priority to its economic strategy—has, compared with its annual gross domestic product, the smallest military budget of the 15 countries in the Middle East.

Moreover, during the past 15 years, my country has managed to establish its own successful military industry, which enables it—to a certain extent—to satisfy the army's needs, and we are even capable of exporting some things.

We get the other most up-to-date and technologically exacting components—as previously—from the "Big Five."

In conclusion, Czech weapons are among the obsolete categories of Russian military hardware, which are unable to compete on the current saturated world market. It is obvious that the two countries are determined to follow the path of traditional, good cooperation that existed in the past and to keep in step in their relations.

Understandably, the main stress will continue to be placed on the technical and economic character of this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

ICO Secretary General Stops Over for Visit

Comments on Rgional Issues

LD0902142694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The OIC [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, has appealed to all Afghan leaders, parties, commanders and people to cease all hostilities and scrupulously observe a cease-fire on all fronts from the first of Ramadan al-Mubarak [Holy Ramadan]. Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, now in Pakistan, renewed the offer of the OIC to assist and facilitate a political process in Afghanistan. He said the OIC is prepared to play a meaningful role in promoting an intra-Afghan peace process without precondition. However, he said effective cessation of hostilities and observance of cease-fire are essential to enable the organization, and friends of Afghanistan, to help Afghan brothers overcome this tragic phase.

The OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid had a meeting with the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, in Islamabad today. They discussed the major issues of concern to the OIC including Kashmir and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid also had a meeting with the NWFP [North West Frontier Province] Governor Major General Retired Khurshid Ali Khan in

Peshawar, and discussed with him matters relating to the affairs of Muslim ummah [community] as well as of bilateral interests.

Briefs President on ICO Activities

BK0902144694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] today and discussed with him various problems facing the Muslim world. The secretary general briefed the president about the various efforts made by the ICO to put an end to hostilities in Afghanistan. He also informed the president about his current mission to affect a cease-fire in the strife torn country which will pave the way for a dialogue between the warring factions.

The president briefed Dr. al-Ghabid about the appeals made by Pakistan and other steps taken by it to restore peace in Afghanistan. He wished him all success in his efforts and assured him of all possible cooperation by Pakistan. The Kashmir problem and situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina also came up under discussion during the meeting. Dr. Hamid conveyed to the president the ICO's deep concern and anguish over the situation in the Indian-held Kashmir and reiterated support to Pakistan's stand.

Comments on India, Kashmir

BK0902160094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], urged India to revise its inhuman policy on occupied Kashmir and adopt a path for the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. In a statement on arrival in Islamabad today on a two-day visit to Pakistan, he said the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be crushed by force. The ICO secretary general said the Indian atrocities have crossed the limits on which the ICO is deeply concerned. The large-scale massacres in Sopor and Kupwara, in which hundreds of people were martyred, have dealt a deep blow to the Islamic world. He said the ICO will move a resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting currently being held in Geneva to halt the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

On Bosnia-Herzegovina, the secretary general said our efforts are to get the use of force against Serbs authorized by the UN Security Council and also get the unjust and illegitimate arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina Government lifted.

Spokesman Says India's Charges on Kashmir 'Baseless'

BK1202143394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Indian allegations of terrorism saying the uprising in occupied Kashmir is a result of repression and the denial of Kashmiri's right of self-determination by India. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. He said the Indian External Affairs Ministry's statement blaming Pakistan for the deteriorating situation in held- Kashmir is totally baseless. The Indian accusation came in the wake of the statement by the head of the U.S. South Asia Bureau, Miss Robin Raphel, that the two conflicts in Afghanistan and Kashmir were similar which are exacting a terrible toll of civilians.

The spokesman said it is not only the United States, but almost every member of the United Nations which understands that the killings in occupied Kashmir are the consequence of the repression of Kashmiri people's quest for the right to self-determination. The Indian accusation about terrorism, the spokesman said, has been disproved. He said if India believes in its own propaganda, it should agree to Pakistan's proposal to station UN observers group For India and Pakistan or any other impartial monitors along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Article Views Country's Nuclear Option

BK1002123294 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Feb 94 p 7

[By Munir Ahmad Khan]

[Text] It is widely assumed that Pakistan has achieved nuclear capability and can exercise the nuclear option if and when in the future a political decision is made in this regard. This capability has been earned at great technical economic and political cost. As time passes, Pakistan will be subjected to even stronger pressures to compromise on the nuclear issue and roll back or even abandon its nuclear programme. National interest demands that we retain our nuclear option as long as India does as it may take India a considerable time before it agrees to subscribe to the Non- Proliferation Regime for Sough Asia as has been proposed by Pakistan. During this period Pakistan has to maintain its nuclear capability. The question is now can we sustain our nuclear option.

Realistically speaking, pressures on Pakistan will mount and not decrease with time. The US commitment to non-proliferation is toughening and not receding. World public opinion is turning against nuclear weapons even in the hands of nuclear powers and certainly more and more against the so-called near-nuclear weapons states such as India, Pakistan and Israel. There is hardly any difference of views among the nuclear-haves that further

proliferation has to be contained. So we will have very few or no allies to back us up. We may even be on our own.

The assumption that once a country acquires nuclear capability it cannot be eroded or taken away is rather naive and an illusion. While it takes considerable technical skill and political determination to achieve this, in the first place it needs even greater effort to retain it later on. France was a nuclear rebel until the 1980s but the changed international situation and pressures from its partners in Europe and across the Atlantic compelled it to conform to the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] South Africa was able to build a small nuclear arsenal by defying international embargoes over a long time, but found it politically impossible to hold on to it and had to surrender 8 or 10 nuclear bombs it had built. Ukraine, with its 1,600 nuclear warheads, ranks as the third nuclear power in the world and has sophisticated long-range missiles to deliver them to any part of the world. Yet it cannot even service this arsenal. Its economic and security compulsions have forced it to give up this formidable capability. Even the UK finds it harder and harder to hold on to its modest stockpile of nuclear weapons in spite of its imperial longings.

It appears that its is relatively less difficult to climb the nuclear ladder but much harder to hang on after getting there. We should not underestimate the challenges we will face in sustaining our nuclear option and must prepare ourselves to do all that it takes to keep it.

While it will become increasingly hard for us to retain our nuclear option it is relatively easy to lose it. The quickest way to do this would be to increase our nuclear rhetoric to win greater public applause at home. This nuclear jingoism which our politicians and technologists have engaged in to win cheap popularity has been extremely costly to the nation. It has sent completely wrong signals abroad and played into the hands of our opponents. It also provides a ready excuse to India to continue with its massive nuclear programme. It is, therefore very important that both the government and the opposition and all responsible leaders of various parties exercise restraint when talking about the nuclear issue. This is needed particularly at a time when the US Congress has started debating a revision of the Foreign Assistance Act which could hopefully dilute the Pressler Amendment and provide an opening for the US President to resume US Pakistan cooperation in the economic and defence fields.

Even if the Pressler Amendment is somehow miraculously withdrawn or circumvented it will only be a temporary relief. The nuclear issue between the US and Pakistan will not be resolved as the US will continue to pursue its objectives through other means. India will persist in strengthening its nuclear muscle and reach posing a growing threat to our securing. The stakes will get higher and higher. The strategy we should develop must be one which enables us to keep the nuclear option open for a long time. This means we should take immediate steps to reduce our vulnerability to outside pressures and build up the strength and stamina to resist coercion.

Politically we need a renewed commitment to our nuclear programme and to maintain the nuclear consensus. The Government and Opposition have to speak with one voice so that there is no rollback and no unilateral compromise. This demands a measure of political maturity on all sides. We have to take the nuclear issue out of the political areas so that it is above petty politics.

Economically, Pakistan is extremely vulnerable. Our dependence on foreign economic and financial aid has to be reduced. We have to put our economic house in order. This requires making tough and unpopular economic decisions which is not an easy matter for any political government. But we can not expect the aid donors to underpin our economy so that we enjoy the luxury of wasting funds at home and continue to postpone economic reforms. Without a strong economy no country can ever maintain a nuclear option.

In the defence field, we are highly dependent on foreign military supplies equipment and hardware. India meets 80 per cent of its defence needs through indigenous production while we are critically dependent on imports. We have to build our own defence industry. It will require a bold new approach to mobilise our internal technical and human resources, involve the private enterprise and establish the essential infrastructure for our defence industry which we have neglected so far.

U.S. 'Preferential Treatment' of India Criticized

BK1302132594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 94 p 6

[Editorial: "American designs in South Asia"]

[Text] A clue to the designs of American strategies can be found in the latest offer of two American companies to supply India with sophisticated modern electronic warfare systems. This is a significant change in American policy in this region. Earlier, the US Government had warned India to desist from developing its own indigenous warfare system, and if it did not heed this warning, the US would sell its advanced airborne warning system to Pakistan. It seems that India stopped the work on its own AWACS and started negotiations with the US for the supply of electronic equipment needed by the Indian Air Force. Now not only will India continue its research and development programme for its own AWACS but will also have the benefit of incorporating within its advance warning system that latest electronic equipment supplied by American firms.

This change in American policies will give to the Indian Air Force a huge advantage over all its neighbours. Now India will be able to develop its own Airborne Surveillance Platform and also that of obtaining the American

AWACS. This will vastly improve India's air defence as well as increase its air attack capabilities. The Indian Air Force is already a formidable force and much too large for the comfort and security of India's neighbours, but with the additional electronic systems from the US it will acquire the status of a local or mini superpower, a dream that has obsessed many Indian leaders.

As long as America needed Pakistan to further American aims in the region, it had warned India to puruse its hegemonistic plans in the whole of South Asia, but should leave out Pakistan, because it was not within the South Asian region, but was part of the Middle East. Once the Soviet Union troops left Afghanistan and the USSR disintegrated, Pakistan's strategic importance, in the estimate of US policy makers, declined sharply. Pakistan was no longer needed to contain Russian communism, nor to prevent Islamic resurgence in what was once a part of the USSR. America now encourages India to look upon this region as its sphere of influence.

This development must be studied carefully by our policy makers and steps devised to counter these sinister developments in our region. Pakistan is not Nepal, Maldives or even Sri Lanka to accept tamely the Indian hegemony in this region. We can join with other countries in the region to devise plans which will be beneficial to all countries in South Asia, we can cooperate with our neighbours to make South Asia a region of peace and to ensure the sovereignty and security of all the countries, small and large in the region. Pakistan cannot under any circumstances accept the hegeony of India. Pakistan can sit down with all countries for the working out of arrangements that guarantee the security of the region and also safeguard the sovereignty of all countries. This can be done only when all countries sit down as equals and have a dialogue as sovereign states.

Pakistan must protest against this preferential treatment of India by the US and use all its diplomatic resources to persuade Americans not to pursue their one sided policies in South Asia. Pakistan can not be bullied into accepting so grossly unfair and humiliating an arrangement as seems to be in the making in Washington. Pakistan has no hegemonistic dreams and will not allow any country in its neighbourhood to nurse such dreams. The people of Pakistan and the defence forces of the country are fully determined and capable of defending their sovereignty and will defeat all attempts made to reduce this proud nation into a client state of any country no matter how large or powerful.

Indian leaders have started to threaten Pakistan with dire consequences if it does not stop its support of the Kashmiri mojahedin, and some even go so far as to claim that India is incomplete without Pakistan. We have no desire to strike a jingoistic stance and would advise Indian leaders to make a sober assessment of the situation and learn to live peacefully with its neighbours. India will have to give up its hegemonistic dreams and must accept the existence of smaller states. It has gigantic problems of its own which should receive all its attention. We have seen the performance of the Indian army in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Any military adventure might act as a boomerang and give rise to civil turmoil and disintegration within the complex and divided Indian society. Instead of dreaming of setting up an Indian Empire, Indian leaders would do well to serve their own people by deverting their huge defence spending to socially useful projects which would save India's millions from starvation.

U.S Policy in South Asia Outlined, Examined

BK1302124494 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Feb 94 p 6

[By Mushahid Hussain]

[Text] Within the first week of February, senior officials of the American State Department have come out with policy statements regarding South Asia which provide some insights into the Clinton Administration's emerging view of a region that has assumed great strategic importance in the post-cold War world.

There were two statements by Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Robin Raphel, the first on February 4 before the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near-Eastern and South Asian Affairs and her second was an address to the Asia Society. The other was a statement from the US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs, Lynn Davis who said on February 7 that in regards the nuclear issue, the United States "will be looking at India and Pakistan equally and together as we seek to craft a non-proliferation strategy" for South Asia, thereby publicly accepting that American policy cannot be selective or discriminatory.

Robin Raphel's two statements are the first from her as public policy pronouncements regarding American perceptions of South Asia. Three aspects of the American view of South Asia are instructive. First there is acceptance by the United States of the reality that both major South Asian countries, India and Pakistan, are "nuclear capable and each is also apparently intent on acquiring ballistic missiles." There is a greater and more realistic view of security perceptions in South Asia when Robin Raphel stated before the Asia society that "large constituencies in both countries firmly believe that their nation's security is best assured through a nuclear capability." The American official also recognises in the statement that neither India nor Pakistan can be "easily persuaded" to forego the nuclear option.

The second major tenet of American policy towards South Asia pertains to the announced objective of "launching a multilateral process to promote arms control non-proliferation and regional security" and in this regard, the American official discloses that "both India and Pakistan already accept the mulitlateral approach in principle but details must be worked out."

The third important aspect of the Raphel policy statement was in equating what she described as the "civil war in Afghanistan" and the "insurgency in Kashmir." In equating the two, a civil war with a genuine liberation movement whose problem requires resolution under a United Nations administered plebiscite to which America is also formally committed at least to the extent that it is a party to those resolutions, the United States is viewing both Afghanistan and Kashmir as sources of instability and violence that need to be defused and contained rather than Kashmir as a dispute requiring resolution under universally acknowledged principles of self- determination. This distinction is important because the approach of the United States will then be different since containing a problem and resolving a problem are two different sets of machanisms.

The American policy statement also is specific in the context of Pakistan, particularly since it is the first public official Washington view of this country following the October 1993 elections. Some insights into the American perspectives on Pakistan as enunciated by the US top policy-maker on South Asia.

—There is sigh of relief that the "forces of moderation continue to prevail" since expectations before the elections about the "triumph of extremism" or that Islamic fundamentalist parties were predicting big gains have been proven wrong.

—The October 1993 elections are handled as "the first and fairest in many years and it is specifically cited that these elections were "closely supervised by the military under Chief of Army Staff Waheed" thereby acknowledging the Pakistan Army's "honest broker" role in national politics.

—Without saying so in so many words, the American official seems to be enclosing the ending of "a period of divided government in Pakistan" with Presidency going to Farooq Leghari a PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader who in her words. "was selected to be President".

—There is a word of advice to the PPP government with the formulation that "we are hopeful that the new leadership will be able to work with the Opposition led by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to overcome political gridlock".

—As was to be expected, the American State Department official lauded Moin Qureshi as providing "an excellent example of statesmanship and dedication of good government for the region and the world".

Interestingly, on India the accent of the policy statement is more on economic ties than a strategic military connection which was what the Indians were expecting and desperately wanting after the end of the Cold War. For instance, the US official stated that "there was more investment by American companies in India in 1993 than in all the years since independence, 20 per cent of all Indian exports come to the United States, the US is the largest source of foreign investment and commercial technology for India and the US Commerce Department has designated India as one of the 10 major emerging markets in the world to receive special attention as US formulates its worldwide strategy". Robin Raphel also cited an important fact that major American corporations have recently launched an "India Interest Group," which means that despite Pakistan being the economic leader of South Asia in 1991 when the reform process began in the region, today, India has easily overtaken Pakistan as the country in South Asia which is the primary and perhaps the sole recipient of American economic interest and investment.

Three strategic realities define these emerging American objectives in South Asia in the post-Cold War world. First, American political influence is more extensive and more pervasive in South Asia than at any time before, more so because it is no longer confined to Pakistan and it encompasses India as well. As Robin Raphel told the American Senate, "with the ending of the Cold War, South Asians recognised that the United States is now the outside power best building to assist them." There is no competing influence from Russia now. Interestingly for the first time, the United States is trying to build a new intimacy with the Pakistan Army on the basis of America's political clout without any tangible expression of support via military hardware or financial grants, as was the case during the Cold War years in the 50s and the 60s or the Afghanistan period in the 80s. But the problem is that on certain core issues for Pakistan like the nuclear programme, Kashmir and relations with China, American policy is at variance with Pakistani objectives. Hence the foundations of any new special relationship between the two sides or their respective militaries will be lacking.

The second basic reality defining American interest in South Asia is the China factor, with the Peoples Republic of China emerging as the area on which American strategic pressure is bound to be felt till the end of the century. China is all emerging economic giant with military power and political will to assess an independent posture in world affairs and although it is not interest in filling any vacuum created by the demise of the Soviet Union, China certainly is no pliant country acquiescing to American hegemony. It is thus no accident that the United States as well as the West generally are cultivating all of China's neighbours from Korea to Kyrgyzstan with the Americans talking to Pyongyang and normalising ties with Vietnam as well. With the British putting pressure on Hong Kong close to its unification with the mainland in 1997, the Americans are interested in the South Asian region as as a potential area to monitor and pressurise China, especially its minority provinces like Tibet and Xinjiang which border India and Pakistan respectively.

South Asia and Pakistan particularly, are also the gateway to Central Asia and hence Pakistan is also able to influence developments in neighboring Afghanistan which, in turn, impinge on Cental Asia, hence the

Americans view South Asia and Pakistan in particular, as an extension of the Central Asian region, a fact acknowledged in Raphel's statement to the Asia Society when she said that "we must also recognise the importance of outside factors—concerns about China, developments in Central Asia and Russia—in the South Asia security equation."

However, the American stated and unstated agenda for South Asia—preventing tensions and conflict between India and Pakistan, focussing on India as a large market for American goods and technology, and Pakistan as a potential observation post for china, Iran and Cental Asia—present serious problems given the fact that on key areas vital to Pakistan's national security like Kashmir and the nuclear issue there is still no real fresh and radical departure from long-standing American policy. US policy can no longer keep pace with either the ground realities in Kashmir or the fact that Pakistan has long embarked on the path of nuclear independence which cannot be rolled back either under foreign pressures or pliable governments. As long as this reality gap is not bridged on vital issues, with American policy still far removed from the ground reality on the Kashmir and nuclear questions, American policy making will be reduced to an adhoc, reactive, moment-to-moment approach rather than a strategic perspective what is required in these troubled times.

Paper Backs Condemnation of Indian President's Remarks

BK1202142994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Feb 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Unwarranted Outbursts"]

[Text] The Foreign Office in Islamabad has reacted strongly to the unsavoury remarks made recently first by Indian President. Dr Shankar Dyal Sharma, and later by the country's Minister of State for External Affairs, Salman Khurshid. And rightly so. The remarks focussed on the person of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, which apart from violating established norms of diplomacy, reflect poorly on India's case on Kashmir. What has actually agitated the minds of the Indian leadership, causing the kind of outbursts as have more come out of Delhi, is the Pakistani PM's expose of Indian atrocities in Kashmir before the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva Even if President Sharma's attack on Ms Bhutto's family problems is accepted at face value. where is the connection between the PM's differences with her brother and the Indian troops's gross human rights violation against the people of Kashmir? if anything. Dr Sharman's words are of an oppressor desperate to deflect world opinion from the real issue. Salman Khurshid's diatribe against the PM in which he likened her to a hot air balloon about to seem to come from considerations of a different nature—that of a minority community member trying to prove his credetials in the Congress which has brought him in primarily as a showpiece of the so-called Indian secularism. Hence it is understandable to see a carerist like him repeating parrot-like what his benefactors want him to say.

But then he he is not the only Muslim who is willing to do the dirty work for his masters. farooq Abdullah before him had taken upon himself to do the same, though only to be humbled and chased out of the Valley by the power of Kashmiri people's urge for freedom. A test case for the Sheikh's position having any relevance to the concerns of his people would be for him to go back and try living in the Valley. Such a venture on his part can easily demonstrate who the hot air balloons really are. It is sad that toadies and frontmen of New Delhi have no sense of shame in pleading a case that stands widely condemned not only by Muslim nations but several of those countries as well which had traditionally been supportive of India's stand vis-a-vis Kashmir. People like the Sheikh and Khurshid may have an uncontroliable desire to get public positions at any cost from their paymasters but inpursaing these goals they can sve themselves from a great deal of embarassment—that is, if they are capble of feeling embarassed—by asking themselves if they are capable of feeling embarassed—by asking themselves if they should be doing all this at the expense of the blood of their fellow Muslims.

Editorial Discusses U.S. Nonproliferation Policy

BK1402135594 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 14 Feb 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Program—New Element in the U.S. Attitude"]

[Text] According to the influential U.S. daily THE WASHINGTON POST, the United States is preparing to launch air strikes against nuclear installations in Third World countries. A Defense Department official has been assigned the task of determining how Third World nuclear installations can be targeted for U.S. air strikes.

It is known that—following China—India, Pakistan, and now North Korea are Third World countries that have been the topic of international media discussion regarding their nuclear strength. India officially detonated a nuclear bomb in 1974, becoming a de facto member of the international nuclear club, but the United States has not paid much "attention" to India's nuclear program since then. On the other hand, when Pakistan achieved the capability to enrich uranium during the last decade, the United States started raising objections to Pakistan's nuclear program. It adopted a policy of "overlooking" Pakistan's nuclear program, though, because of Islamabad's courageous stand during the "Afghan war." After the end of the Afghan war in 1990 and the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union as a superpower, however, Washington declared Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program a "weapons-oriented program" and stopped all military and economic aid to Islamabad. This aid has still not been resumed. The

Pakistani people will be rightly concerned about this talk of targeting nuclear installations in Third World countries.

There have been serious differences between the U.S. and Pakistani stands on Pakistan's nuclear program. In the opinion of the Pakistani people and several governments, the U.S. Administration—under the influence of the Israeli and Indian lobbies—has refused to accept the "peaceful" nature of Pakistan's nuclear program. This is the case even though Islamabad has given assurances at the international level that it will not build and has not built any nuclear weapons, despite having the ability to do so. Washington's stand, however, is that Islamabad is making nuclear weapons and that it should roll back its nuclear program.

The U.S. Government is putting its entire emphasis on making Pakistan "abandon" its nuclear program and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, or NPT. In response, the Pakistani Government has always adopted the stand that it is ready to sign the NPT provided that India—which is a major nuclear power in this region—signs the treaty first. It is regrettable that the United States views Pakistan's nuclear program in the perspective of its wider global priorities; this is why it has only been pressuring Islamabad to sign the NPT.

Some changes in this situation have recently become discernible in the wake of remarks in certain U.S. circles, especially by Ms. Robin Raphel, chief of U.S. South Asia Bureau [title as published]. Washington now appears to understand Islamabad's view better than before.

Lynne Davis, the U.S. under secretary of state for international security, has said that as far as nuclear proliferation is concerned, Washington will adopt an evenhanded approach to both India and Pakistan. Nevertheless, we should not indulge in any wishful thinking in the wake of statements by Ms. Robin Raphel and Lynne Davis, nor should we start to think that the U.S. Government's stand has completely changed and is now tilting in favor of Pakistan. In fact, the U.S. Government's basic stand—the basic objective of U.S. policy—is to have South Asia declared a nuclear-free zone. This element in the U.S. attitude is favorable to Pakistan, because Washington will no longer view Islamabad in isolation from the South Asian perspective on the nuclear issue; rather, it will view Pakistan's nuclear program from an overall perspective.

In view of continued U.S. pressure on Pakistan's nuclear program, we consider Washington's new attitude a welcome shift. Yet we must express our regret that Pakistan is still the victim of discriminatory laws, such as the Pressler Amendment, intended to make Pakistan the target of "vindictive actions." Even though India detonated a nuclear device in 1974 and has subsequently built nuclear weapons, the United States does not think it is necessary to take any "action" against New Delhi, which continues to receive all sorts of U.S. assistance. We would also like to tell our U.S. friends that the imposition against Pakistan of such discriminatory laws as the Pressler Amendment has not helped—nor will it help in the future—to rid South Asia of nuclear weapons. The sooner the U.S. Government and its policymakers understand this fact the better, because U.S. policy objectives cannot be achieved by making Pakistan the target of "discriminatory laws."

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Rejects Local LTTE Leader's Overtures

BK1402113594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe Monday rejected peace overtures from a junior rebel and insisted that any serious offer to end the bloodshed must come from the Tamil Tiger chieftain.

A local leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had asked the Colombo government last week to "create conditions to establishing peace" in the embattled northeast where the rebels are fighting for a separate state.

In the first reaction to the offer made by an LTTE functionary known as Karikalan, the prime minister said that rebel supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, 39, must be directly involved in any new peace effort.

"Any response from the LTTE must come from Prabhakaran. We have not closed the door for peace. But Prabhakaran is silent," Wickremasinghe told a public rally in central Kotmale region Sunday.

He said 14 months of talks with the LTTE ended in failure in June 1990, leading to more bloodshed, and he added that after that debacle all political parties agreed that Prabhakaran must be directly involved with any talks.

"No political party has changed that position. We do not want to discourage anyone from talking. But any serious move must come from Prabhakaran himself and no one else in the LTTE," Wickremasinghe told AFP Monday.

The latest LTTE peace bid was conveyed to the government by A.T. Ariyaratna, a leader of a non-governmental organisation, who visited LTTE-held Jaffna Peninsula.

"I met the (LTTE's Jaffna political leader) Karikalan who expressed their desire to bring about peace. I have conveyed their message to the president," said Ariyaratna who heads the voluntary organisation called Sarvodaya.

He said Karikalan's message in Tamil was tape recorded and a transcript was given to President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga who has often repeated that there was no ethnic conflict but a problem of terrorism in the island's north.

"I only conveyed to the president (this message) and he said he will give very serious thought to all that and for me to continue what ever confidence building measures," Ariyaratna said.

The Tigers had asked the government to create conditions conducive to peace by dismantling a limited economic blockade on the peninsula. There have been no concrete proposals from the Tigers themselves.

Ariyaratna, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, said he was planning several more visits to the Jaffna peninsula to "build confidence" between Sinhalese and the minority Tamils concentrated in the northeast.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo Nicholas Marcus Fernando and the Anglican Bishop of Colombo Kenneth Fernando made separate visits to Jaffna recently and reiterated the need for ending the 22-year-old war.

The two clergymen also met with several LTTE leaders, although the Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabakaran did not make an appearance.

Wickremasinghe also said the government hoped that the LTTE's political wing, known as the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), would contest local council elections in parts of the embattled northeast.

"We wanted to give them a chance to test their popularity and then come for talks. But they have not responded," Wickremasinghe said. The elections are scheduled for March 1.

Security forces, who have been acquiring more hardware and men in recent months, are currently conducting limited operations against LTTE positions in the island's east ahead of the local election.

Government Troops Destroy Tamil Guerrilla Camp

BK1402113694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Government troops Monday concluded a limited weekend offensive against Tamil guerrillas in northeastern Sri Lanka, destroying a rebel camp and seizing dozens of anti-personnel mines, officials said.

About a thousand troops backed by air and sea cover returned to base in coastal Trincomalee following the operation over the weekend against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the region, officials said.

Troops destroyed an abandoned LTTE camp that included 15 well- fortified bunkers and ten small accomodation units, a military spokesman said. They also recovered about 50 anti-personnel mines from the rebel camp, he said.

"The Tigers left the camp to avoid confronting advancing troops. One soldier was wounded when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine," the spokesman said.

The latest offensive was part of a military campaign to flush out LTTE rebels in parts of the island's north and the entire east ahead of key local government elections in the region on March 1.

The LTTE, which is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, have vowed to disrupt the polls in northern Vavuniya, in Trincomalee and the neighbouring districts of Batticaloa and Ampara.

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